

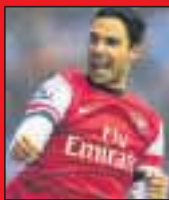
# The SPORTS PINK

55p

Supporting **LOCAL** sport **Daily Echo**

## ARSENAL DO SAINTS A MASSIVE FAVOUR

Premier League round-up – see page 5



[dailyecho.co.uk/sport](http://dailyecho.co.uk/sport)

## SPORTS REVIEW OF THE YEAR



Read part one on pages 16-27

## Saints lose out in festive six-pointer

# CLAUS FOR CONCERN!

### SAINTS 0 SUNDERLAND 1

**SAINTS** will enjoy a miserable Christmas after they suffered a hurtful 1-0 home defeat against fellow strugglers Sunderland.

Steven Fletcher's goal two minutes before half-time was all that separated the sides.

But in truth in a game where Saints were under pressure to bag the victory they rarely looked like carving out the chances to do against a resilient Black Cats side.

The defeat leaves Saints still out of the relegation zone, but only on goal difference.

It also means they really need to look to get something from their other festive fixtures which are away to Fulham and Stoke and at home to Arsenal.



**PAINFUL DEFEAT:** Steve De Ridder is challenged by Phil Bardsley.

### TERRY PAINE



Saints legend's  
**EXCLUSIVE** column  
See page 7

### NON-LEAGUE



**SEVEN** pages of  
non-league football  
Pages 8-13 & 15

### ADAM RANT



Why survival odds are  
stacked in Saints'  
favour See page 33

**SAINTS v SUNDERLAND MATCH REPORT AND REACTION – SEE PAGES 2-3**



# Saints Spotlight

## SAINTS 0 SUNDERLAND 1: SAINTS BEATEN

# NIGEL'S MEN FAIL BLACK CATS LAND

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It also means they really need to look to get something from their other festive fixtures which are away to Fulham and Stoke and at home to Arsenal.

Kelvin Davis was celebrating his 600th league game against his former club and was called into action just seconds in.

Stephane Sessegnon turned quickly and fired in a curling right-footed shot from 25 yards that Davis had to turn wide diving to his left.

Despite that Saints did settle

### Adam Leitch

adam.leitch@dailyecho.co.uk

### CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER

well and were quickly into their stride.

They had the first chance to have a go at goal on eight minutes as Emmanuel Mayuka won a free kick 20 yards out on the left hand side.

Rickie Lambert stepped up to whip in an inswinging right-footed effort that both skipped off the wet turf and took a slight deflection off a Sunderland defender as it flashed just past the far post.

Davis was in action again on 14 minutes as a short corner found Seb Larsson cutting in onto his right foot but his low drive was a fairly comfortable stop for the experienced keeper.

Mayuka was the next to have a go as he created himself a yard on the edge of the area but his right-footed shot was weak

and easy for Simon Mignolet to gather.

Up the other end there was another simple save for Davis, this time from James McClean's 25-yard effort.

Mignolet was certainly extended further on 20 minutes as Gaston Ramirez hit a shot that moved and dipped and caused the Sunderland keeper to have to drop down to his right to stop it.

As the half wore on it was still Saints who looked more comfortable in possession, while Sunderland struggled to keep it for any period of time.

Saints just needed to create a clear cut chance to make their dominance pay.

There were a few momentary worries for Sunderland but on the whole they were just about managing to contain Saints.



**GOING LOW:** Sunderland's Carlos Cuellar challenges Rickie Lambert.



**DEJECTED:** Morgan Schneiderlin and Maya Yoshida after Steven Fletcher's goal.



However, there was always danger as they looked unlikely to get a goal themselves.

That was until three minutes before half-time when Sunderland took the lead.

Adam Johnson was fed in down the left, got to the by-line and picked out Sessegnon with a cut back.

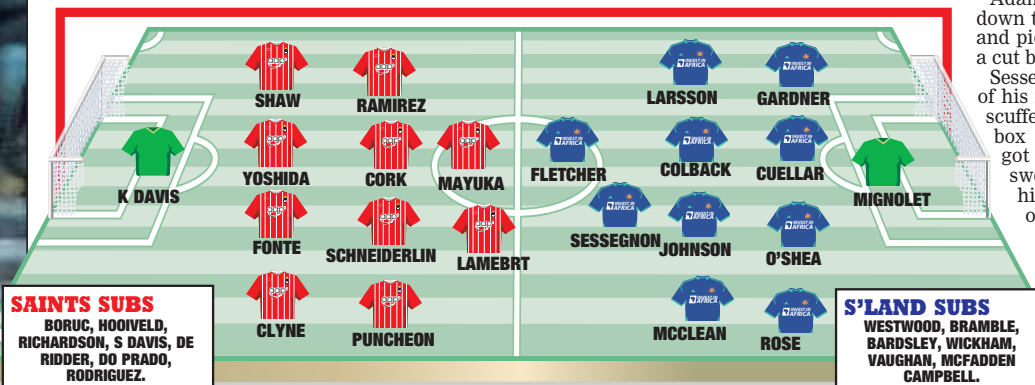
Sessegnon made a total mess of his finish but that meant he scuffed it further across the box to Steven Fletcher who got ahead of his man to sweep home first time with his left foot from ten yards out.

Almost immediately Saints had a decent shout for a penalty turned down by Howard Webb as Mayuka went down in the box.

Larsson became the first man in the book for dissent just before the half-time whistle went with Saints trailing despite having bossed most of the first period.

Lambert tried his luck from distance early on in the second half but it went over the bar.

Craig Gardner was allowed to push forward from deep and



NIGEL Adkins made two changes to the team that defeated Reading for the visit of Sunderland to St Mary's.

One was enforced with Adam Lallana missing out due to a knee ligament injury that is set to side-

### TEAM NEWS

line him for a number of matches.

Gaston Ramirez was back in the side on the left of midfield with Jason Puncheon on the right.

The other change was in attack where Emmanuel Mayuka was given his first Premier League start since a £3.5m summer move to Saints.

Jay Rodriguez dropped to the bench.

**READ THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH COLUMN ON PAGE 6**



# Saints Spotlight

## BY FELLOW STRUGGLERS

# TO SPARK AS FESTIVE BONUS

## Flat performance – Adkins

NIGEL Adkins was left to lament an “uncharacteristically flat” performance from his Saints team as they fell to a deflating defeat at home to Sunderland.

Steven Fletcher’s strike just before half-time separated the sides at St Mary’s, with the hosts unable to break the Black Cats’ dogged resistance after the interval.

The loss to their fellow strugglers leaves Saints 17th going into Christmas, out of the relegation zone by virtue of goal difference.

Adkins admitted the performance was not what he has come to expect from his players.

“It just didn’t happen for us

today,” he said. “To me, it just seemed to be uncharacteristically flat, for whatever reason. Obviously, I’ll digest that.

“The goal we’ve conceded just before half-time, from our point of view there’s obviously two or three people who could have done better in stopping the goal.

“That’s obviously given Sunderland something to hang onto in the second half and give them credit because they’ve defended well.

“We changed things round to try and give ourselves an opportunity to increase the tempo and find a way forwards to create openings and unfortunately we’ve not gone and scored any goals.”



**FULL STRETCH:** Danny Rose and Nathaniel Clyne battle for the ball.



**ABOVE:** Simon Mignolet punches the ball clear of Rickie Lambert and Jose Fonte. **LEFT:** Jason Puncheon gets to grips with Danny Rose.

but though his header flicked off a Sunderland player it was going off target.

Johnson picked up a yellow card for a foul as Sunderland continued to largely contain Saints as a rain lashed St Mary’s grew a little tense.

Sunderland made a first change on 70 minutes as Phil Bardsley replaced Larsson.

Puncheon had a run towards goal moments later but John O’Shea got a foot in before the winger could fire in.

Johnson picked up an injury after a challenge with De Ridder and had to be replaced by Frazier Campbell on 75 minutes.

Davis had a real scare a minute later as Gardner fired in a hopeful long range free kick that slipped through the keeper’s fingers and happily stuck between his legs rather than squirming through into the net.

Bardsley was in the book not long after coming on for bring-

ing down De Ridder as he tried to break down the left.

Saints made a final change with ten minutes remaining with Guly do Prado coming on for Puncheon as they chased the game.

Sunderland were doing a decent job of shutting the game down with Saints struggling to create anything of note.

The Black Cats made a change with one minute remaining with David Vaughan replacing Sessegnon as Sunderland looked to hold on.

Saints looked short of ideas to get anything as a Nathaniel Clyne shot from distance woe-fully off target emphasised.

But in four minutes of injury time Saints did threaten slightly.

Ramirez and Lambert both saw shots blocked while Do Prado’s effort was miscued and deflected wide.

It wasn’t to be though for Saints as Sunderland stood firm and held on to bag three points.

fired a low ball into the box that just evaded another Sunderland player.

Saints were somewhat struggling to impose themselves early in the second half as they had in the first.

Nigel Adkins reacted by making a first change on 55 minutes with Steve De Ridder coming on for Mayuka with a rare appearance.

It was used as a way of changing the shape back to the 4-2-3-1 that Saints have often used over the course of the season.

Ramirez went in behind Lambert, who was the lone striker, with De Ridder on the left and Puncheon on the right.

Saints made another change on the hour mark with Steven Davis coming on for Morgan Schneiderlin in the centre of the midfield.

Jose Fonte had a great chance on 62 minutes which he couldn’t capitalise on when De Ridder whipped in an inswinging right-footed corner.

The centre half was unmarked from eight yards out



**FESTIVE SPIRIT:** Saints fans dressed in Santa Claus fancy dress.

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**TURN TO BACK PAGE FOR PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE**



# Premiership Spotlight



**All I want is to be treated like a fan**

**DAN KERINS**

**A VIEW FROM THE STANDS**



THERE is a delicate balance to strike when it comes to informing supporters of what is going on and giving away trade secrets.

Recently, Saints have been completely silent on the injury to Adam Lallana – and understandably many Saints fans are desperate to know what is going on.

The exact reason for the club's reticence to spill the beans – to any degree – is not clear but you can understand to a point why they may not want to alert upcoming opponents as to whether or not they have to adapt for what Lallana brings.

In this week's pre-match press conference, Adkins would only go as far as to say Lallana was suffering a knee injury – that much everyone already knew after watching the midfielder undergo treatment pitchside.

As with any organisation, there is a certain amount of secrecy required to get things done without competitors getting one over you and Nigel Adkins does have a habit of not answering even the most mundane of questions.

For example, the only time I've seen him be anything remotely close to candid was following the 6-1 drubbing against Arsenal. In was nice to actually hear a worthwhile view on the

team's performance rather than one liners about buses, "this football club" and "the Barclays Premier League".

I'm writing this as a supporter – not a journalist. I want to hear the manager's thoughts and opinions. We all do.

Perhaps if the club was a bit more forthcoming with information about the little things (for example, I was well aware how much it would cost me to purchase a corporate hospitality seat for the Sunderland match, but nowhere could I find the price for a ticket to the Stoke match) there would be less inclination for some to automatically assume a cover-up when someone like Lallana gets injured, just because the club wants to play its cards close to the chest – or perhaps the player doesn't want their medical information thrown about all over the place.

It would just be nice for the club to think that some information other than corporate hospitality prices might be useful to fans – and not necessarily harmful to the club.

Fans respect the need for some things to remain confidential – but we want to feel like we are actually part of a club rather than customers of a business.

# Benitez: Torres form shows my methods are working

**RAFAEL Benitez has claimed Fernando Torres's long-awaited return to form is proof that his Chelsea revolution is working.**

Almost two years since Torres' record-breaking move from Liverpool and he is finally starting to score the number of goals to justify his £50m price tag.

Six in five games is by far the most sustained run of the 28-year-old's Stamford Bridge career and it has coincided almost exactly with his reunion with former Anfield boss Benitez.

Chelsea's interim manager – who takes his team to St Mary's on January 5 – immediately identified that Torres had lost some of the physical conditioning that had made him one of the most feared forwards in the world, as well as an obvious lack of confidence from failing to find the back of the net.

"Two or three things that we are doing for some players are really good," Benitez said, claiming the sharpness in the majority of his players was now "much better".

"Fernando is one of the examples."

He added: "He's scoring goals and the team is winning and playing well, so he's really happy, not just because he's scoring goals but also because the team's doing well."

Despite the clear impact Benitez has made on Torres, he played down the extent of his own influence on his fellow Spaniard.

"I think that the team has an influence on him because the team is doing well, so the team is playing better, creating more chances," he said.

"So Fernando is taking more chances."

Benitez refused to speculate on exactly how much his training methods had improved Torres and others during his month in charge ahead of Sunday's Barclays Premier League clash with Aston Villa.

"You can more or less think but imagine I will say to you that they are 90 per cent fit and we lose on Sunday, you will say, 'What is going on?'" he said.

"What if I say 20 per cent and we beat Aston Villa 5-0?"

"Football is so special that you cannot guarantee 70, 50 or 60."

"What I can say is we have time to bring players in the team and then change players, so we can manage the tiredness a little bit better."

Indeed, Benitez has rotated his squad far more than predecessor Roberto Di Matteo and he revealed fatigue had been a real concern in the wake of Chelsea's gruelling Club World Cup trip to Japan.

So much so in fact that it threatened to derail Benitez's plans for Wednesday's Capital One Cup quarter-final win at Leeds.

"Some players, they were quite tired," he said.

"The day before, we were training and I was talking with the fitness coach."

"We had three or four that could be a problem."

"We decided to change some players but I didn't want to change too many."

With no end in sight to their punishing fixture schedule, tiredness is likely to become more of a problem as the season progresses.

That makes reinforcing what is an alarmingly thin squad imperative during the January transfer window.

Reports today suggest Benitez faces a battle to convince Chelsea's board to spend big rather than recalling some of the youngsters the club currently has out on loan.

Inaction is simply not an option, with Daniel Sturridge said to be on the brink of being sold, Oriol Romeu out for the season and John Obi Mikel and Victor Moses set to be missing for up to a month on African Nations Cup duty.

Chelsea's failure to reach the Champions League knockout stage has also left them with two extra potential fixtures in the shape of a Europa League last-32 clash with Sparta Prague.

One player not complaining about a trip to the Czech Republic was goalkeeper Petr Cech, who will return to the club where he made his name.

"It is fantastic for me to be able, after 12 years, to finally play a Czech team in a European competition," Cech said.



**RETURN TO FORM:** Fernando Torres.

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# Premiership Spotlight



**FALL GUY:** Manchester City's Yaya Toure, centre, goes down under a challenge from Reading's Alex Pearce, left.

## Barry spares City blushes

GARETH Barry's late goal spared Manchester City's blushes as they edged out bottom side Reading 1-0 at a relieved Etihad Stadium.

Roberto Mancini's side trailed local rivals and current league leaders Manchester United by six points in the title race heading into this weekend, and they appeared to be at risk of losing more ground thanks to a dogged defensive effort from the Royals.

But Barry rose to head home in stoppage time from David Silva's cross to trim United's lead to three points before their clash with Swansea on Sunday.

Everton moved back into the top four as they came from behind to beat West Ham at Upton Park.

Carlton Cole fired the Hammers into the lead, just moments after the Toffees had seen a Leon Osman effort ruled out

after Victor Anichebe was adjudged to have fouled Jussi Jaaskelainen.

Anichebe levelled after the break before Cole was sent off for a high challenge on Leighton Baines.

Everton capitalised as Steven Pienaar grabbed the winner and the visitors held out after Darron Gibson was dismissed late on.

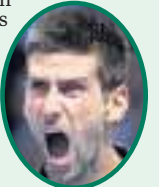
Norwich saw their 10-game unbeaten run come to an end as they were beaten 2-1 by West Brom.

Robert Snodgrass' free-kick gave the Canaries the lead, but goals from Zoltan Gera and Romelu Lukaku ensured it was the Baggies who took the three points at The Hawthorns.

Substitute Shola Ameobi gave Newcastle a valuable win over QPR. The striker got the only goal of the game after being teed up by Sylvain Marveaux.

## Sports Quiz

- 1 Who is the leading run-scorer in Test cricket this year?
- 2 Which super-heavyweight boxer defeated David Price at the 2008 Olympics but was beaten by Anthony Joshua in the London 2012 Games?
- 3 The NFL team known as the Jaguars hail from which state?
- 4 How many times has Novak Djokovic, pictured below, won the Australian Open men's singles title?
- 5 West Ham midfielder Mohamed Diame comes from which country?
- 6 Who won Great Britain's first medal at this year's London Olympics?
- 7 Who is the leading wicket-taker in Test cricket this year?
- 8 Which club did Swansea sign Michu from?
- 9 Which country last won back-to-back Six Nations titles?
- 10 Who won this year's Australian Open women's singles tennis title?
- 11 What is the nickname given to Jacksonville's NFL franchise?
- 12 Which West Indian batsman, known as 'Master Blaster', represented Somerset for 12 years?
- 13 Which former Southampton manager is the current performance director of the Scottish Football Association?
- 14 Which British snooker player won his first of four World Championship titles in 2001?
- 15 Name Aston Villa's Austrian striker.
- 16 Which driver won the Formula One title in 1996?
- 17 The New York Knicks play their home matches at which venue?
- 18 Which current QPR player joined Manchester United from PSV Eindhoven in 2005?
- 19 What is the name of Notts County's stadium?
- 20 Richard Agar is coach of which Super League club?



# It's Gunner be a bright future – Chamberlain

**ARSENAL forward Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain believes the future is bright for the Gunners after their 1-0 win over Wigan at a rain-lashed DW Stadium in the Barclays Premier League.**

Mikel Arteta scored the only goal from the penalty spot in the second half and former Saints player Oxlade-Chamberlain, one of five players to sign new deals at Arsenal this week, believes manager Arsene Wenger has got the mix right.

"The players that we've got here now, there's some really exciting young players," Oxlade-Chamberlain said after being named man of the match.

"I think it's a good mix of youth and experience. The future does look bright for us."

Oxlade-Chamberlain praised Wigan for their attacking approach despite being in the bottom three.

He said: "They set up with a lot of men in midfield. In the first half it was hard to get to grips with their midfield at times."

Arteta thought there were encouraging signs for Wigan despite the loss which kept them in the bottom three below Saints.

"I think they have been unlucky with the result because the way they play is quite 'offensive'," he said.

The Spaniard was also happy to be able to celebrate three wins in a row for Arsenal for the first time this season.

"It's a big win for us, that's three in a row now," said the former Everton man. "I am really happy with the points. It's been a tough game, the conditions were really difficult."

Wenger felt it was important to secure a third successive victory.



**FELLED:** Wigan Athletic's Maynor Figueroa, left, brings down Arsenal's Jack Wilshere.  
**INSET:** Mikel Arteta celebrates scoring from the spot.

"It was very important because we beat West Brom at home and now we have two away wins (against Reading and Wigan)," he said.

"It was a difficult game because they stopped us from playing. I believe they are in the wrong position in the table."

Wigan manager Roberto Martinez believes referee Jon Moss was wrong

not to award his side a late penalty after the ball struck Kieran Gibbs on the arm.

"The (Arsenal) penalty was very soft, if anything, I think. Theo Walcott is very clever there," said Martinez.

"And then at the other end if you want to give a penalty where the hands are not in the natural position.

I'm really disappointed because the players don't deserve the feeling that they've got now.

"We are in the middle of a period where calls are not going our way and we've got a few players missing."

"I thought we played really well. We played with a great mentality. The players displayed a big team mentality and I couldn't be prouder."

Wakefield.  
sung; 19 Meadow Lane; 20  
Square Garden; 18 Park Ji-  
Dannion Hill; 17 Madison  
15 Andreas Weimann; 16  
Wotte; 14 Rommie O'Sullivan;  
Viv Richards; 13 Mark  
Azarenka; 11 Jaguars; 12  
(2006-07); 10 Victoria  
Rayo Vallecano; 9 France  
7 Rangana Herath (60); 8  
(silver, women's road race);  
Senegal; 6 Lizzie Armstrong;  
Three (2008, 2011, 2012); 5  
Cammarrelli; 3 Floridia; 4  
1 Michael Clarke; 2 Roberto

## ANSWERS

**FOOTBALL FIXTURES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD - SEE PAGE 12**



## BOOK of the WEEK

**SEVEN DEADLY SINS**  
My Pursuit of Lance Armstrong  
By David Walsh  
Sportsbookofthemonth.com  
price: £9.31 saving £9.68 on rrp

THERE was the briefest of periods during Sunday's BBC Sports Personality of the Year award programme when Bradley Wiggins' position as odds-on favourite was subjected to a potential threat.

Midway through the programme, a montage of still photographs depicting a grimacing, yellow jersey-wearing Lance Armstrong may have created the impression in some viewers' minds that cycling remained ravaged with drug abusers and, by extension, affected Wiggins' status amongst the British public.

Thankfully it didn't and we should be grateful that following the incredible investigative work of David Walsh, cycling is now almost certainly as free from performance-enhancing drugs as most other professional sports.

Walsh's lengthy pursuit of the truth regarding Armstrong was not without scares. He was threatened, sued and ostracised from many within cycling's most prestigious 'inner circles', but he kept going, gradually turning from a "fan with a typewriter" to a journalist urging his peers to get off their knees and "approach

[cycling's] stars with a level gaze and honest questions".

Walsh clearly had doubts from the point at which he reported on Armstrong's first Tour de France victory in 1999. "There are times," he wrote, "when it is right to celebrate, but there are other occasions when it is equally important to keep your hands by your sides."

Armstrong and his aides were furious, not least because Walsh was one of a small coterie of reporters over whom they had no control.

Walsh, meanwhile, took the resulting abuse, vicious rumours and even the tragic loss of his 12 year-old son, John, in his stride and maintained what he calls his "unavoidable duty" to expose Armstrong.

On October 22, he was vindicated when the International Cycling Union (UCI) accepted the findings of a US Anti-Doping Agency report, banned Armstrong for life and stripped him of his seven Tour de France titles.

This is one of the most powerful sports books ever written, yet despite its length (over 420 pages), Walsh, an accomplished journalist, retains the reader's attention throughout. A 'must-read' for anyone with an interest in modern sport.

**We've teamed up with Sports Book of the Month & have a copy of Seven Deadly Sins to give away.**

**To win this week's sports book, go to their website ([www.sports-bookofthemonth.com](http://www.sports-bookofthemonth.com)) and answer the following question:**

**Which cyclist won the Tour de France in 1998?**



# Pompey wish for a Christmas miracle

**TIS the season to be jolly, or is it the season of goodwill to all men? Either way, by the time you read this, either the Mayans were wrong and the world hasn't ended or this article is an hour of my life that was well and truly wasted.**

"So Daren, what were you doing at the end of the world?"

"I was writing an article about Portsmouth," was the answer – a bigger waste I can't imagine!

Yes, Christmas is upon us and it's been a half a season without me mentioning the rabble down the road.

But it is Christmas – traditionally the time of year we think of those less fortunate than ourselves... and they don't come more unfortunate than Portsmouth fans do they?

With their court case yet again postponed you'd be well within your rights to wonder just what the hell is going on down at Fraggie Rock, sorry, Fratton Park.

Let's be serious for a moment here, just what do Portsmouth FC have to do to get wound up?

All rivalry aside (and no Saints fan really wants to see them go out of business, just suffer a lot) just how are they still trading as a business?

## UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Can you think of one single business that can owe as much money as they have, twice defaulted on monies owed and yet are still be in business?

Any other company would have been stripped of all its assets and wound up and yet Pompey still limp on.

At the time of writing their court case has been adjourned yet again and Pompey fans face an uncertain future... again.

As Saints fans we know where we stand in the Portsmouth issue, but as football fans we know all too well how it feels.

As Saints fans we know how heart-wrenchingly awful that uncertainty is and whilst I suspect sympathy was in short supply down the road when we were in trouble, you'd be hard pressed to not feel some of their anguish.

But for the life of me I cannot understand the Portsmouth Fans Trust, I just can't.

Your club has been horrifically used and abused, it's become the poster child for greed and deception. What do you do?

The last thing I would have done is raise money to put in pockets of the very people who have decimated my club in the first place.

Pompey had the opportunity to take control their own destiny



**FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE:** Pompey's stand-in boss Guy Whittingham has his work cut out keeping Pompey from successive relegations.

with a phoenix club, a fan-owned club clean of any past indiscretions and free to embrace a bright new future.

Instead, and I know I'll get slaughtered for saying this, Pompey fans took the greedy, lazy route out of it all by trying

to buy back Pompey, Fratton Park and all its assets and not have to start up again from scratch.

No having to rise up through the leagues, they could inherit a full league club.

But in doing so they simply re-tread old ground, the baggage Pompey have dragged around with them for the last five years is still there and still shackled to them like Marley's chains in Dickens' A Christmas Carol.

Yes, finding a ground, building a squad and an infrastructure would have been a huge task, but AFC Wimbledon have shown that if you believe in something strongly enough, anything is possible.

As it stands, if Pompey do exit administration they should incur a ten point penalty and, judging by their current league form, that would surely guarantee relegation.

It's not like in the past, where Pompey held on to players they couldn't afford and bluffed their way to survival.

Their current squad is made up of freebies and loans, which may be great right now, but when the time comes to discuss contracts they suddenly don't seem so great when any player can leave when they want for a bigger, better deal elsewhere

## SHAMBLES

Whilst I can feel all the sympathy in the world for the Portsmouth fans, their lazy, half-baked bid is a shambles and you can't help but think that it's bound to fail.

Take Pompey's league attendance this season, limping flaccidly over the 10,000 mark each game.

Just how is the trust going to work when they barely get Fratton Park half full?

Think about it, for Portsmouth to pay off their immediate debt, not their long term one, they'd need those 10,000 fans to pay £1,000 each and that is quite simply never going to happen.

If you can't be bothered to pay for a ticket week in week out, how the hell do they expect people to throw in £1,000?

In short, it'll be a cold, cold Christmas for Portsmouth and their fans.

The Trust was a bold plan, but ultimately lazy and flawed. It will fail, maybe not today or tomorrow, but it is destined to fail.

They haven't got anywhere near the pledges they need, if they had they'd be shouting it from the rooftops and it would be front page news.

So, merry Christmas Portsmouth fans and good luck. I think you'll need all the help and good wishes you can get...



# Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



## Liverpool's embarrassing about face?

JUST how embarrassing would it be for Liverpool Football Club to re-sign a player deemed not good enough for the club last year and who was sold to Blackpool for the very modest fee of £250,000? Well, that is a question they are having to answer

now. Liverpool's pursuit of the England under-21 winger Tom Ince has been snubbed by Championship side Blackpool.

Ince, the son of former Liverpool and Manchester United midfielder Paul, is having a great season.

His 13 goals in 21 league

matches has alerted a host of clubs to his ability, and Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers has made the 20-year-old one of his key targets in January.

I wonder what the young man's thoughts are about his former club? Is there any resentment on his

part?

Will he suggest that if he wasn't good enough for them while he was at Anfield, why would he be good enough for them now? And who was responsible for allowing him to leave the club, and is that person still there?

All of that may play a part in his decision.

Meanwhile, negotiations between the clubs are ongoing.

One thing is for sure. Paul Ince, a feisty competitor in his playing days, may well be the one who has the last word on his son's future.

## Arsene's star on the tree ...

WAITING GAME:  
Theo Walcott.

**ARSENAL may have signed the famous five – Wilshere, Gibbs, Ramsey, Oxlade-Chamberlain and Jenkinson – but most of the club's supporters would have preferred it to have been six.**

Missing from the list of those to have penned new contracts is, of course, the name of Theo Walcott.

I make no apologies for once again returning to the topic of a player who I have said for the last two years is invaluable to Arsenal's future success.

The contract deadlock that currently separates Walcott from an extended stay at the Emirates Stadium is not insurmountable.

I would like to think that Theo has been reading my column for a long while now.

At least 18 months ago, I said that he is not a natural in the wide position and should be allowed to play a more central role. It is an opinion he shares.

Was it the shambles of the Capital One Cup embarrassment at League Two Bradford that finally tipped the scales in Walcott's favour?

The result meant Wenger was under even more pressure to accede to Walcott's desire to play through the middle, rather than on the flanks, in the next game against Reading.

I can imagine Walcott walking into the dressing room at the end of the game at the Madejski Stadium on Monday night and telling Wenger 'I told you so'.

The 5-2 win, in which the former Saints man scored and turned in an impressive performance, moved Arsenal up to fifth place in the Premier League.

I wonder if the penny has now dropped for Wenger regarding Walcott's starting position?

If it has, then it can only be financial considerations holding up the agreement.

The January transfer window is beckoning

and, although Walcott will remain at Arsenal until the end of the season, interest is mounting from the likes of Liverpool, Manchester United, Chelsea and Manchester City – clubs who wouldn't hesitate to offer a package well in excess of Arsenal's.

But dare the Gunners allow another young player to move on, after Fabregas, Nasri and Robin van Persie in recent years? They just can't afford to lose players who have so much more to come in their footballing careers.

Concern has also been voiced by Arsenal's second largest shareholder, Uzbek billionaire Alisher Usmanov, who claimed Wenger doesn't get enough backing from the board.

Despite his shareholding, Usmanov's Red and White Holdings group surprisingly do not have a representative on the board at Arsenal.

Usmanov made it very clear he would like to buy more shares and ultimately take control of the club. Standing in his way, however, is American Stan Kroenke, the majority shareholder.

What is clear is that money is needed to freshen the squad. The good news is that improved financial results in 2012 were boosted by a £150m sponsorship deal with Emirates Airline.

Wenger has been restricted by the move from Highbury to the Emirates Stadium in 2006, but, with money now flowing into the coffers, surely investment will be forthcoming in the January sales.

If, as the Arsenal manager, pictured, has indicated, he wants to build around a core of British players – something badly missed in recent teams – then he will still need the influence of some experienced players.

So what better time, if possible, to bring in a couple of big-name players to supplement the current crop of youngsters? Needless to say, Wenger's best and biggest signing would be that of Walcott. If that was to happen then it would indeed be a happy new year.

## Lampard still has plenty to offer the game...

IT may not be quite the right time just yet to say 'Thanks for the memories' but Chelsea's Frank Lampard has indicated that this could be his last season at Stamford Bridge.

The prolific goalscoring midfielder has confirmed that no approach has been made by the club for an extension to his contract, which expires in June.

Since joining the club in 2001, Lampard has endeared himself to the Chelsea supporters.

Now 34, he has had to consider moving to pastures new.



As correctly said, nothing lasts forever, although ageing players often think it does.

I will be astounded if Lampard is not offered a position with a club in England who have ambitions to move forward.

A player of his ability still has a lot to offer, as he reminded us with his performance in the 5-1 Capital One Cup win against Leeds in mid-week.

Talk of moving to the Chinese Super League was confirmed last month, but I like to think that Lampard still has much to offer a club in England.

The stumbling block to that, of course, could be the financial side, with Chinese side Shanghai Shenhua employing his former teammates Nicolas Anelka and Didier Drogba on reported wages of £185,000 a week.





# Non-league Football

## Non-league News

**Milton double swoop**  
NEW Milton Town have completed the signings of Danny Cox and Adam 'Taz' Roberts from Winchester City.

For utility man Cox, pictured below, it marks a return to Fawcetts Field having previously played there on dual registration from AFC Totton during Paul Masters' and Andy Bye's time in charge.



Young forward Callum Holloway has also joined the Sydenhams Premier strugglers on a dual registered basis from Eastleigh Reserves.

### Heath's hot month

**BEMERTON Heath** Harlequins' hot November form has won them the Sydenhams Premier Division club-of-the-month award. The Western Way outfit - league runners-up last season - propelled themselves into the title race by picking up 13 of a possible 15 league points during the month.



Ian Chalk's (pictured) men also won 3-2 at St Austell to carry the Wessex flag into the third round proper of the FA Vase. Since then they have crushed Horndean 5-0 to take their place in the last 32 at home to Blackfield & Langley on January 19.

The Harlequins' more immediate goal is to rein in Wiltshire neighbours Downton, who have yet to win a club-of-the-month award this season despite topping the league by six points going into today's round of games.

The Division One club-of-the-month award for November has gone to Pewsey Vale.

### Stags' penalty drama

AFC TOTTON Reserves edged through to the third round of the Russell Cotes Cup on Tuesday after a penalty shootout victory over Hampshire League side Liphook.

Zac Mouland gave Totton a 1-1 draw, with Ryan Angear on target for Liphook, before the Stags triumphed 6-5 on penalties.

# Local football scene is in mourning for legend Ron

## Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

**RON Sevier, one of the inspirations behind the all-conquering Sholing Sports FC side of the 1970s, has died.**

He passed away peacefully at Linden House Care Home on Tuesday, December 11, aged 76.

Along with Eric Lisle, Sevier led Sholing Sports to Hampshire 1, Hampshire Senior Cup and Russell Cotes Cup glory over 30 years ago.

One of his former players Ray Collins, who helped organise two Sholing reunions for Sevier and Lisle in 2009 and 2010, said: "He was a real gentleman but, more than that, he made us young Sholing Sports players into what we are today."

"He was a very special man and especially a top football manager - the best I have ever known."

Sevier joined Sholing as assistant to Joe Harley in 1970/71 and guided the reserves to Southampton Senior Division 1 runners-up spot, securing them election to the Hampshire League.

The following season he took over the first-team reins, steering the side to second place in Hampshire 2.

With Lisle working similar miracles with the reserve team following his arrival from Mullards, the club soon boasted teams in the top two county divisions.

And by the time Sevier and Lisle left Birch Lawn in April, 1976, the club had been transformed from a small dot on the county map to a side that every non-League club in



**ABOVE:** Ron Sevier, front right, at the Sholing reunion in 2009 and, left, the all-conquering Sholing side of 1973/74 (Sevier is far right, in purple shirt).

the county was desperate to beat.

In a surprise turn of events, Sevier was to return to football as a player with Follands just over a year later - at the age of 41.

He had hung up his boots ten years earlier, but he did it to highlight what he regarded as a severe decline in the quality of football in the county.

Sevier was not afraid to express his views on the state of the game in *The Echo*.

On the subject of player loyalty he once said: "Managers are afraid to say 'boo' to a goose when it comes to dealing with players. Leave a man out of a side for one week and he wants to be off to another club."

And with regard to playing both

Saturday and Sunday football, he said: "It makes my heart bleed to see how local football has declined - and the reason is simply that lads are playing too much football these days."

"I am a man of principles. I dearly want to put back into football what I took out of it as a player, but there is no way I will sacrifice time with my own family to try and help players whose heart is only partly in the cause."

Sadly the curtain came down on Sholing in 1993, when receivers wound up Sholing Sports & Social Club and sent contractors in to plough up the Birch Lawn pitch.

But the Sevier and Lisle era lives on in the memories of those who were privileged to have been part of that sparkling 70s success story.

Collins recalled: "I remember a little story some years ago when me and Andy Leader were managing Lymington Town and we played Vosper Thornycroft (now Sholing FC) away."

"We lost and Andy Leader was sacked after the game and I felt obliged to go as well. In the bar afterwards I spoke to (Vosper's boss) Dave Diaper and he told me about his plans for the club. He wanted to play like the Sholing Sports side of the 1970s when we regularly got 1,000 fans watching us at Birch Lawn."

"He said how much he admired Ron Sevier and all his players and he wanted to get the fans to come along and support his side and they would become the top side around just like Sholing were in the 1970s."

"It really hit home just how good Ron Sevier was as a manager and just how good Sholing Sports were."

## Oldring back to bolster Stags' defence

AFC TOTTON are ready to welcome a familiar face back into the fold.

Versatile defender Matt Oldring, pictured right, is primed to return to the Evo-Stik Southern Premier Division club once his international clearance comes through.

The former AFC Bournemouth and Weymouth centre-back/full-back has been away working and playing in Australia.

And although there has been a change of manager at Totton since he was first taken to the club by Stuart Ritchie the pre-season before last, he is keen to be reunited with his old teammates.

Steve Riley, who took over

from Ritchie during the summer, said: "Matt knows a lot of our boys and gave me a bell about coming back to Totton."

"It would be nice to have him available over Christmas, but we're still waiting for international clearance, so watch this space."

After hosting Frome Town today, Totton face a Boxing Day trip to south coast rivals Gosport Borough (1pm) who have edged ahead of them in the table on goal difference.

Alex Pike's men were beaten 3-2 by the Stags in the FA Trophy in October, but will fancy their chances of revenge after

stringing together a fabulous run of eight league games unbeaten.

"Not long ago Gosport were third to bottom but now they've gone above us," said Riley. "It will be a big game down there, hopefully with a big crowd too."

While Totton were left ruing a mad five minutes at Banbury on Tuesday



which turned a 1-0 lead into a 2-1 defeat, Gosport were busy springing one of the surprises of the season.

Faced with a daunting midweek trip to second-placed Leamington, they rose to the occasion superbly to pull off a 3-1 win. Ex-Andover and Eastleigh striker Justin Bennett paved the way to victory with goals in the 17th and 22nd minutes.

Tom Berwick pulled a goal back for The Brakes, but as they threw bodies forward in search of an equaliser Gosport pounced on the break with Adam Wilde setting Dan Wooden up for a scrappy third.

Leamington boss Paul Holleran said afterwards:

"Gosport are a very attack-minded team with arguably the two best strikers in the league."

"But, not for the first time this season, we gifted the opposition early goals and that's put us on the back foot and chasing the game."

Delighted Borough boss Alex Pike - who has just celebrated seven years at Privett Park - said: "To come away from home and beat a team who have lost just twice in 27 matches shows how far we have come."

"It takes our unbeaten run to eight matches, which is really something considering our poor start to the season."



# Non-league Football



## Bristow hoping to avoid relegation battle

**BASINGSTOKE** Town entered the Christmas programme today with just Truro City separating them from the bottom of the Blue Square Bet South.

Going into this afternoon's home game against Staines, Jason Bristow's men had won just one of their last ten matches in all

competitions and could badly do with some festive cheer.

They make the short trip to Farnborough on Boxing Day before travelling to Woking's Kingfield Stadium, the temporary home of Hayes & Yeading, on December 29.

Then, on New Year's Day,

they host the return match against Farnborough, completing a run of games that could define their season.

Emerge with eight or nine points and they could move up several places, but come away with only one or two and a relegation battle will beckon.

"It's a tough run of fix-

tures, but in this league every game is a difficult one," said manager Jason Bristow.

"Farnborough are chasing the play-offs and will fancy their chances against us and Hayes were possibly one of the best sides we have seen so far this season. The good news is that

we seem to rise to the occasion against the better sides, but we will just concentrate on each game as it comes and try to get as many points as possible."

Strikers Delano Sam-Yorke and Tim Sills were likely to return to the starting line-up against Staines today.

## Non-league News

**Tom's headache relief**  
**EX-SAINT** Tommy Widdrington, pictured below, has solved his Eastbourne Borough goalkeeping headache by signing fit-again Ross Worner on loan from npower League Two club Aldershot Town.

Worner, 23, recently made his comeback from a long-term back injury playing for a young Shots side in their 2-1

Hampshire FA Senior Cup defeat at Alresford.

He replaces Craig Ross, who has returned to his parent club Cambridge United at the end of his loan spell with Blue Square Bet South outfit Eastbourne.

The Shots keeper made his Borough debut against Widdrington's old club Salisbury City last Saturday, but Borough were on the wrong end of a 2-1 scoreline against the BSB South leaders.

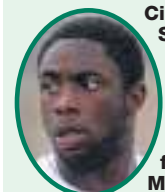


**Ex-Saint is on target**  
**EX-SAINTS** and Salisbury City striker Kayne McLaggon, below, was on target for Yate Town on Tuesday in their 3-1 home win over

Cinderford in the Southern One South & West.

The Weston-super-Mare frontrunner, who scored for Saints in Mark Wotte's

first Championship game in charge at Norwich almost four years ago, recently signed dual registration forms for the Gloucestershire outfit.



**L&F brought to a halt**  
**LAVERSTOCK & Ford's** Sydenhams One revival was halted at home to Whitchurch United last Saturday.

Following three straight wins, the Wiltshire club were beaten 1-0 at The Dell after missing a late penalty.

Pa Touray's ninth-minute goal settled the issue on a sticky pitch.

Lavvy were awarded a spot kick 12 minutes from time, but keeper Tom Hindmarsh saved it and United's Rio Francis was sent off in the aftermath for allegedly striking a Laverstock player.

# EASTLEIGH BOSS A FULL-TIME FAN

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**EASTLEIGH** boss Richard Hill has stressed that the club's latest move towards full-time football will be built around first-team players.

The Blue Square Bet South outfit have twice gone down the road of daytime training before, most recently at the start of last season.

On that occasion it was mainly youngsters involved as part of the club's player development programme.

But this time Hill will be working exclusively with the first-team squad as the Spitfires look to follow league leaders Salisbury City down the full-time professional path.

"This is a first-team squad thing," stressed Hill. "We're not just going to bring players along to make up the numbers because that would dilute the quality."

"We had two young players involved in our first session on Tuesday, Corey King and Cassius Newton, but both have been involved with first-team training for a month."

"This is all about trying to take the first team squad forward."

"We had 14 players there on Tuesday, including Craig McAllister, Lee Peacock, Jai Reason, Glen Southam, Mark Hughes, Damian Scannell, Tom Jordan and Ross Flitney and it was really upbeat. I see it as a very positive thing."

"Any club that wants to be successful has got to train more than two nights a week."

Just as Salisbury found when they first went full-time under Nick Holmes and Tommy Widdrington, not every player is able to commit

## SPITFIRES SNAP UP POMPEY YOUNGSTER

**EASTLEIGH** have signed 18-year-old defender Alex Grant on a month's loan from Portsmouth.

Manchester-born Grant lived in Salford for seven years where he played for Dean FC, the same junior club as Manchester United's Ryan Giggs.

He lived in Perth, Australia for several years as a youngster and represented the Australian national side.

Grant signed a two-year scholarship for Portsmouth in July 2010 and progressed through the academy and reserves sides, earning a place on the first-team bench against Nottingham Forest in April this year.

A big Manchester United fan, he made his full first-team debut this season in the Capital One Cup against Plymouth Argyle.

Eastleigh boss Richard Hill said: "Portsmouth let it be known Alex was available and I felt a player of his potential with first-team experience already would be an ideal situation to bring strength into the defensive area of the pitch."

**FULL TIME JOB:** Eastleigh boss Richard Hill says Eastleigh's move to full-time football will aid the club's ambition to become a League club.

to daytime training.

But like the Whites, Eastleigh will continue twice-weekly evening sessions for those unable to get away from work.

"Going full-time is not something you can do unless you've got players who all fit the same criteria and, unfortunately, we haven't," said Hill.

"We've got lads in the squad who

are very good players but have also got very good jobs which they are not in a position to jeopardise.

"We can't just forget those players and tell them to train on their own or say they're not playing - that's not the way forward."

"We have to work around those who can train during the day and those who can't," added Hill.

"For everything you need a start-

ing point and Tuesday was ours.

"In the initial stage we will train in the afternoon on a training day (Tuesday and Thursday) and before the end of the season I will look to introduce another day as well."

"Pro clubs train Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, so we're doing 50 per cent of that already and, as long as I am manager, we will continue to progress."





# Non-league Football

## TAYLOR KEEPS HIS COOL IN BAPTISM OF FIRE

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**PAUL McCarthy has nothing but respect for the job James Taylor is doing as caretaker manager of Winchester City.**

Taylor, pictured below, took over in testing circumstances at the beginning of October, just as City's Sydenhams Wessex title-winning side was beginning to break up.

The exodus of senior players has gathered pace since then, leaving a highly youthful team to try and preserve City's hard-earned status as a Southern League club.

Saluting Southampton-based Taylor's contribution, McCarthy said: "James is resilient and works so hard off the pitch."

"He's been a revelation to me."

"He goes out, finds players, brings footballs in for training and organises the transport."

"He's always there early and is totally committed to the job."

"He and his assistant Mick Cripps make a good team and dovetail well together."

Having lost nine of their last ten league games, City have it all to do to stop their slide towards the Southern One South & West relegation zone.

But McCarthy is confident that former Bashley, Basingstoke and Havant & Waterlooville striker Taylor has what it takes to steady the ship.

"It's an unforgiving job at the moment, but James is a good lad, solid and with his feet on the ground. He's not emotional at all," said McCarthy.

"He knows the task in front of him and we have lost some good players, without a doubt."

"But, unfortunately, loyalty is almost redundant in football these days and we're having to bring in young players at a difficult time."

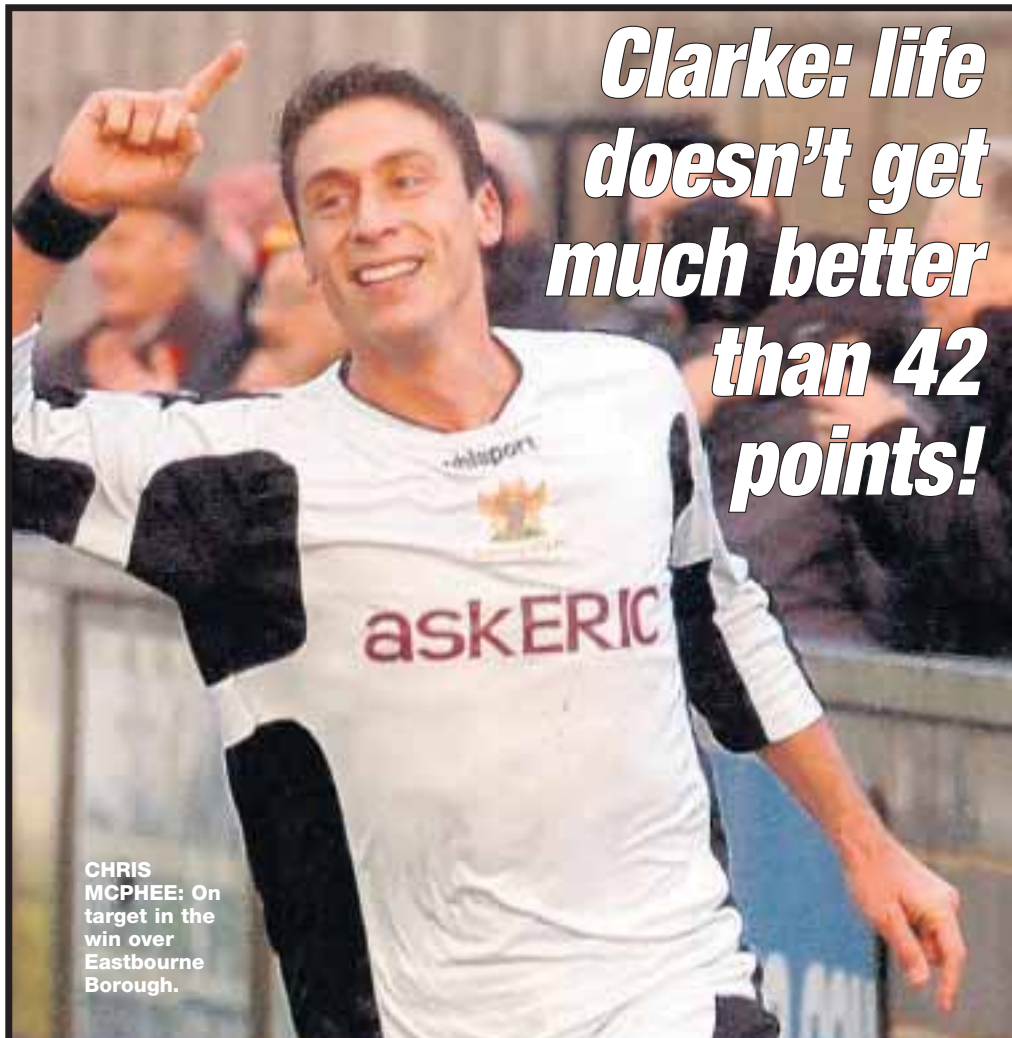
"When you're bleeding youngsters, you want to be in the comfort zone, but we've got no cushion at all."

Although Taylor would no doubt have liked an easier baptism in management, McCarthy believes the trials and tribulations of the last few months will stand him in good stead for the future.

"Hopefully this is a really good grounding for him and I'm sure it will be," he said.

"James is a smashing bloke, uncomplicated and straight as a die."

"He takes things as they come, stays calm and doesn't panic, whereas I'm the opposite!"



**CHRIS MCPHEE: On target in the win over Eastbourne Borough.**

*Clarke: life doesn't get much better than 42 points!*

SALISBURY City player-manager Darrell Clarke says "life doesn't get much better than 42 points on the board after 19 games."

Barring an unlikely slip-up at home to bottom-of-the-table Truro today, the Wiltshire club will head to Richard Hill's Eastleigh on Boxing Day (3pm) as leaders of the Blue Square Bet South.

They marched on with a fantastic 2-1 win at Eastbourne Borough last Saturday when, for the second time this season, Clarke got the better of his former Salisbury teammate and boss Tommy Widdrington.

Stunning strikes from Ricky Wellard and Chris McPhee carried the Whites to victory at Priory Lane, leaving them two points clear of Dover Athletic at the top as they enter a hectic festive period.

"A fantastic three points in difficult conditions," summed up Clarke afterwards.

"I'm really pleased with the boys. They

played some excellent stuff in the first half and had to dig in in the second half."

"Once again they put a superb shift in and, when we had to defend at the end, the lads made crucial blocks."

"Credit to Eastbourne, they never chucked in the towel. They kept asking us questions and it was nail-biting stuff at the end, but we hung on."

"We're top of the league and the boys can't do any more. It's up to us to keep it going now, but life doesn't get much better than 42 points on the board after 19 games."

"Our away form has been excellent."

With the midway point of the season fast approaching, Clarke expects to have more players available for the new year title push.

"I've got one or two boys chomping at the bit from the sidelines who have just come back from injury and are keen to play," he said.

But one player who won't be featuring is last Saturday's scorer Wellard who has been recalled by his parent club Cambridge United after a month's loan.

Wellard joined Salisbury on November 20 to bolster their attacking options and certainly delivered at Eastbourne, netting a forceful drive after ten minutes and then teeing up McPhee to send a thunderous scissor-kick in off the underside of the woodwork 11 minutes from time.

"I've had a really good time here and the club's got a great set of lads," said Wellard. "It was lovely to get a goal in my last game."

"My time's sadly up now but you never know what's going to happen in the future. I wouldn't think twice about coming back."

Following Wednesday's trip to the Silverlake, Salisbury travel to Farnborough next Saturday before hosting the return match against Hill's Spitfires on New Year's Day.

### Non-league News

**Walker-Harris fight**  
FORMER Eastleigh, Bashley and Wimborne goalkeeper Alan Walker-Harris admits he might have quit football after breaking his leg.

The Dorchester Town stopper, below, made his long-awaited comeback for the reserves last week after nearly nine months out of the game.

"Maybe if I wasn't at Dorchester and the break hadn't come on the back of a half-decent season, I would have walked away from football," he said.

"Most of the time during my rehab I was pretty upbeat, but there were days when I had the cast on and got really fed up with it all."

"There were days when I thought to myself 'why are you bothering?', but football is what I do and I wasn't going to let it beat me."

The 31-year-old was beaten four times on his return to action as Dorchester's reserves outgunned US Portsmouth 6-2 in the Wyvern Challenge Cup.

### Moore to come ...

FRANK Gray, manager of Evo-Stik Southern Premier outfit Bashley, believes rookie goalkeeper Stuart Moore could build a bright footballing future.

Ex-Brading Town stopper Moore, currently on loan at Bash from Reading, is the younger of two goalkeeping sons of former Roadsea Southampton No1 and Brading manager Phil.

Ex-professional Gray rates the younger Moore highly. "I have been very pleased with him," said the former Leeds United and Nottingham Forest star. "He has got very good potential and a good future in the game."

### Semi-final dates

THE dates and venues for next month's Sydenhams League Cup semi-finals have been announced.

Alresford Town's tie with Division One underdogs East Cowes Vics will take place at Fareham Town's Cams Alders headquarters on Tuesday, January 15 (7.30pm).

The second semi - another Premier versus Division One clash between Blackfield & Langley and last year's beaten finalists Brockenhurst - follows a fortnight later on January 29 (7.45pm) at the Waterside Sports & Social Club home of Fawley AFC.

**TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE RESULTS - SEE BACK PAGE**



# Non-league Football



## KEMP EYES FRESH CHALLENGE



**CHRISTCHURCH'S most successful ever manager Graham Kemp this week dropped the bombshell news that he is leaving the Sydenhams Premier club after nearly six years at the helm.**

But though he is in dire need of a break, he would love to return to football – hopefully at a higher level – next term, **writes WENDY GEE.**

While Kemp, pictured, has thoroughly enjoyed his time at Christchurch, he feels he has taken them as far as he can and wants the challenge of managing higher, preferably with a playing budget.

"If I go somewhere else it would only be with a club that can progress," he said.

"If someone were to say here's a budget, now go and win the league, I would consider it.

"But if a club's fourth to bottom and wants me to get them out of the mire, I wouldn't.

"I want to move on as a manager."

Kemp is likely to remain with Priory into the new year, having agreed to stay on until a suitable replacement is found.

After that he plans to recharge his batteries before getting out and about to watch games further afield.

"As a manager you tend to get wrapped up in your own circle of players and what I'd like to do is get out and have a look at some different leagues," he said.

"I've had 20 years non-stop in the Wessex League, playing and managing, and I couldn't have asked for two better clubs to be with – Lymington & New Milton as a player and Christchurch as a manager.

"But I've never had a period of time to relax and I feel shattered.

"I'm doing a bit of a Pep Guardiola and taking a sabbatical. I live and breathe football and I need a break."

**'If someone were to say here's a budget, now go and win the league, I would consider it. But if a club's fourth to bottom and wants me to get them out of the mire, I wouldn't'**

With this year's title race wide open, Christchurch have as good a chance as any of lifting their first Wessex crown.

And Kemp says he wouldn't mind at all if the new manager stepped straight in and stole his thunder.

"It's early days yet to be talking about the title, but I'd love it if someone came in and won the league," he said.

"There's no ulterior motive to my leaving.

"I've had an amazing time at Christchurch. The committee have been brilliant and so have the players for the sacrifices they have made for no money.

"I'm just tired and not enjoying it as much as I was.

"The club would never sack me, so it's purely my decision.

"It's very rare in football that you get to walk away with no hard feelings, shake hands and say thank you very much.

"Christchurch will move on and we'll see what the future holds for me."

Kemp broke the news to his players following Tuesday's trip to top-of-the-table Downton.

It wasn't the best of nights for Dorset visitors who lost 3-1 and had defender Dan Taylor carried off injured.

## Bring youngsters through then watch them get cherry-picked!

GRAHAM Kemp says his successor at Christchurch will have to specialise in bringing talented, young players through – and then steel himself to lose them.

That has been par for the course for the 47-year-old who this week announced that he was leaving the Sydenhams Premier Division club after five-and-a-half successful seasons in charge.

Kemp has worked miracles to establish Priory as a regular top-five Wessex force with no playing budget, instead relying on the club's excellent youth system to breathe new life into his squad.

There have been many success stories along the way with home-grown duo Ben Dickenson and Michael Green getting professional breaks with Brighton & Hove Albion and Port Vale respectively, and the likes of Shaun Brian and Adam Costello now playing their trade in the

Southern League.

Winger Harry Cornick – a recent trialist with AFC Bournemouth – could well be the next bright spark moving on and it will be the new manager's task to keep Priory's youth conveyor belt rolling while keeping pace with paying clubs at the top of the table.

"Christchurch won't go down the payment route, but the youth policy is really good from under-12s and 13s upwards," said Kemp.

"Once all the local clubs get to under-16s they want to join our under-18 side – a. because it's well run and b. because they know the first team will give them a chance."

The down side for Kemp has always been that, whenever an outstanding youngster bursts onto the Christchurch scene, bigger clubs start circling.

"If you look at the players we could have had, we'd have been serious con-

tenders to win the league," he said.

"But we get players cherry-picked and can't replace them.

"(Wessex title rivals) Bemerton have just got Joe Sanger back, but unfortunately we're not able to strengthen in the way other clubs can and we tend to fall away a bit because of that.

"We're not a paying club and I can understand the lads wanting to move on and earn a bit of money into the bargain.

"So whoever replaces me has to be happy to bring youth through and coach them and then be prepared to lose them.

"It's been frustrating for me and I know it is frustrating for the club. But unless you are prepared to go down the route of paying players and putting them on contracts, it is always going to be very difficult to keep them."

Despite those frustrations, Kemp has loved his time at Hurn Bridge and is rightly proud of his achievements.

"Turning Christchurch into a top-five club regularly with (assistants) John Macey and Jim Totczyk is a highlight," he said.

"We finished third in the league last season, won the Wessex League Cup and lost the Russell Cotes Cup final, which proved we're a consistently good side. It was the culmination of five years' hard work.

"Seeing Greener, Ben Dickenson and, now, Harry Cornick progress has been great and there are six or seven ex-Christchurch players in the Southern League or above.

"The club is run properly, it has true amateur status and has continued to compete with and upstage some big-spenders at this level.

"The policy is to promote young players and it is bearing fruit. But, like any other ambitious person, I would still like to be managing those players."

## Non-league News

**Bell joins rivals**  
**FORMER** Blackfield & Langley boss Louis Bell has joined the management team of Sydenhams Premier Division new boys AFC Portchester.

Bell, pictured below, has parted company with divisional rivals Horndean and joins manager Glenn Bridgman and director of football Mick Jenkins at Wicor Recreation Ground.



Portchester sharpshooter Simon Woods rose to the top of the Sydenhams Premier goal charts with a brace against Bournemouth Poppies last Saturday, taking his tally to 18.

Blu Boam and Craig Hardy also contributed to the Poppies' 4-1 demise.

**Fourth time lucky?**  
**EASTLEIGH** will attempt to host Truro City at the fourth time of asking in the new year.

The much-delayed Blue Square Bet South fixture, which has fallen victim to a trio of postponements, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, January 22 at the Silverlake Stadium.

Truro have received an early Christmas present with news that the club has been sold to the two local businessmen who stepped in to save them from extinction earlier this term.

The business and assets of the club have been sold to Truro City Football Club 2012 Limited, a company owned by Peter Masters of the L2 nightclub and Philip Perryman of A2B taxis.

The pair had previously put up a £50,000 bond back in October to allow the club to escape liquidation and continue playing in the BSB South.

**Sydenhams dinner**  
**THE** Sydenhams Wessex League's annual dinner-dance will again be held at Southampton's Novotel. Next year's event is due to take place on Friday, May 17.

**TURN TO PAGE 15 FOR TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE ACTION**



# Non-league Football

## Non-league News

### Barker gets busy in Christmas market

ROMSEY Town boss Danny Barker has been busy bolstering his squad in preparation for the tough relegation battle ahead.

The Bypass Ground club have it all to do to preserve their Sydenhams Premier Division status having picked up just six of the first 57 available points.

But Barker, below, has worked hard to bring new faces into the fold and his efforts were rewarded last Saturday when Town picked up their second win of the season, beating Hayling United 4-2 at home.

"I've signed two defenders who have made a difference," said the boss. "Sam McCarthy is an ex-Bashley player and Matt Headington used to be with Sholing reserves.

"We've also brought in Craig Vigar in the mid-field holding role.

"Craig's joined us from Laverstock & Ford, but he's been with several local clubs like Lymington and Hythe and his experience is already helping some of the younger players around him. He played really well against Hayling last Saturday.

"We've signed Elliott Richards from Laverstock too, so things are looking up."

Having taken the lead through Stuart Green against Hayling, Romsey doubled their advantage through Matt Austin just before half-time.

The Humbugs came back at them at the start of the second half, but Town stood strong in the face of the storm and went further ahead through Jack Garner before ex-Eastleigh man Alex Easton replied.

Recent signing Richards then fired them into 4-1 dreamland before Hayling's Steve Black had the last word.

"We could have had three or four goals in the first half, but Hayling came out quite strongly in the second half, which we expected, and they were the better side for ten or 15 minutes. But, unlike in other weeks, we dealt with it," said Barker.

"We hadn't played badly in some of the recent games we'd lost, so I wasn't overly surprised that we won.

"I'm just delighted for the club and the players.

"We're a young, inexperienced side, but I believe in the players and I hope we can take it on from here and build on it."

There was no doubt in Hayling boss Steve Poulton's mind that Romsey thoroughly merited the three points.

"We didn't fancy it and they were the ones with the bit between their teeth," he said.

"Our lads thought all they had to do to win was turn up.

"Romsey fully deserved the win."



## Leader predicts happy new year for Lymington

ANDY Leader is increasingly hopeful of a happy new year for Lymington Town.

Having got back to winning ways against bottom-of-the-table Romsey Town, Town proved themselves a match for one of the Sydenhams Premier's pedigree sides when they drew 1-1 with Newport IoW at Southampton Road last Saturday.

Now third from bottom, they still have ground to make up on the likes of Alton and Horndean above them, but Leader, pictured right, is optimistic that their darkest days are behind them.

"Luke Watts failed a fitness test last Saturday and we were also without Jack Igglesden, Alex Blake, Eddie Barnes-Andrews and Merl Anteny-Wright, who was suspended," said the boss.

"But we've got (Brazilian midfielder) Carlos Geteski back from Winchester City now and him and James Fry make a strong pairing in the middle of the park.

"The shape of the team looks better now and the first half against Newport last week was as good as



Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

we've played all season.

"We played the ball long when we had to and kept it when we needed to. We should have gone in a goal in front at half-time."

It was Newport who eventually nosed ahead on 61 minutes when 20-goal hotshot Alek

Przespolewski – who had earlier rattled the woodwork – broke through and tucked a right-foot shot under Town keeper Stuart Williamson.

But that lead was wiped out just five minutes later thanks to another dash of dead-ball brilliance from Lymington left-back Elliott Wykes.

Having been hailed by Leader as one of the division's set-piece maestros following an excellent low strike around the wall against Romsey, the former Laverstock & Ford player left Newport reeling with a free kick of exceptional quality.

"The Romsey one was a good one,



KO'D: Lymington Town's Luke Watts (red strip) missed last weekend's game through injury.

but this one was even better," said Leader.

"He put it round the wall again, but it was up the hill into the top corner with pace.

"It was a top-drawer goal. The keeper didn't stand a chance.

"We work on free kicks in training and use those plastic models to practise bending the ball around the wall."

Taking a point off Newport was all the sweeter for Leader considering he used to play for the Isle of Wight club in the 1990s during Steve Mellor's time in charge.

"Newport are a strong, physical

side who work well as a unit and Przespolewski is their outlet," he said. "Last Saturday was definitely a point gained rather than two dropped against them.

"But even they admitted we were magnificent in the first half and made a mockery of where we are in the league.

"Simmo (Newport's assistant manager John Simpkins) said he couldn't believe we're down where we are and reckons we'll be OK.

"We'll take one game at a time, but everyone can see we're going to make steps in the right direction in the second half of the season."

## LOCAL AND NATIONAL FOOTBALL FIXTURES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

### Boxing Day

(FL games 3pm KO unless stated otherwise)

#### BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal v West Ham, Aston Villa v Tottenham (5.30), Everton v Wigan, Fulham v SAINTS, Man Utd v Newcastle, Norwich v Chelsea, QPR v West Brom, Reading v Swansea, Stoke v Liverpool (7.45), Sunderland v Man City.

#### npower FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Championship: Barnsley v Birmingham, Bolton v Sheffield Wed, Bristol City v Watford, Burnley v Derby, Cardiff v Crystal Palace, Charlton v Ipswich, Huddersfield v Blackpool, Hull v Leicester, Middlesbrough v Blackburn, Nottm Forest v Leeds (12.15), Wolverhampton v Peterborough.

League 1: Bournemouth v Yeovil, Carlisle v Hartlepool, Colchester v Brentford, Leyton Orient v Swindon, Milton Keynes Dons v Walsall, Oldham v Doncaster, Portsmouth v Crawley Town, Preston v Bury, Shrewsbury v Scunthorpe, Shrewsbury v Notts County, Stevenage v Coventry, Tranmere v Crewe.

League 2: AFC Wimbledon v Northampton, Aldershot v Bristol Rovers, Bradford v Accrington Stanley, Burton Albion v Rochdale, Cheltenham v Wycombe, Chesterfield v York, Dag & Red v Southend, Exeter v Oxford Utd, Fleetwood Town v Morecambe, Gillingham v Barnet, Plymouth v Torquay (1.00), Rotherham v Port Vale.

#### BLUE SQUARE BET CONFERENCE

Premier: Barrow v Gateshead, Braintree Town v Cambridge Utd, Dartford v Ebbsfleet United, Forest Green v Newport County, Hereford v Kidderminster, Lincoln City v Grimsby, Luton v Woking, Mansfield v Alfreton Town, Nuneaton v Tamworth, Southport v Macclesfield, Stockport County v Hyde, Wrexham v AFC Telford.

South: AFC Hornchurch v Welling (1.00), Bath City v Weston-super-Mare, Chelmsford v Billericay, Eastbourne Borough v Havant & Waterlooville, Eastleigh v Salisbury,

Farnborough v Basingstoke, Hayes & Yeading v Maidenhead, Staines v Boreham Wood, Sutton v Bromley, Tonbridge Angels v Dover, Truro v Dorchester.

#### EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: Banbury v Leamington, Bedford v St Neots, Bedworth v Barwell (1.00), Cambridge City v Arlesey, Chesham v Chippenhams, Frome v Bideford, Gosport Borough v AFC Totton (1.00), Hemel Hempstead v St Albans, Hitchin v Kettering, Stourbridge v Redditch, Weymouth v Bashley.

Division One South & West: Bridgwater v Taunton (1.00), Cinderford v Merthyr Town, Didcot v Abingdon Utd, Evesham v Bishops Cleeve (1.00), Mangotsfield v Yate (1.00), North Leigh v Hungerford, Poole Town v Sholing, Shortwood v Cirencester, Swindon Supermarine v Paulton Rovers, Tiverton v Clevedon, Winchester City v Wimborne.

#### SYDENHAMS LEAGUE

Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Fareham Town (11.30), Bournemouth Poppies v Hamworthy Utd, Christchurch v Verwood, Fawley AFC v Blackfield & Langley, Hayling Utd v GE Hamble (11.30), Lymington Town v New Milton (11.30), Moneyfields v Horndean (11.30), Totton & Eling v Romsey Town (12.00).

#### Thursday, December 27

#### SYDENHAMS LEAGUE

Premier Division: Alton v Alesford, Bemerton HH v Downton.

#### Friday, December 28

#### WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE

Premier Division: Sholing v Moneyfields.

#### Saturday, December 29

(FL games 3pm KO unless stated otherwise)

#### BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal v Newcastle (5.30), Aston Villa v Wigan, Fulham v Swansea, Man Utd v West

Brom, Norwich v Man City, Reading v West Ham, Stoke v SAINTS, Sunderland v Tottenham (12.45).

#### npower FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Championship: Barnsley v Blackburn, Bolton v Birmingham, Brighton v Watford (5.20), Bristol City v Peterborough, Burnley v Leicester, Cardiff v Millwall, Charlton v Derby, Huddersfield v Sheffield Wed, Hull v Leeds (12.30), Middlesbrough v Blackpool, Nottm Forest v Crystal Palace, Wolverhampton v Ipswich.

League 1: Bournemouth v Crawley Town, Carlisle v Bury, Colchester v Swindon, Leyton Orient v Walsall, Milton Keynes Dons v Coventry, Oldham v Crewe, Portsmouth v Yeovil, Preston v Doncaster, Shrewsbury v Hartlepool, Shrewsbury v Brentford,

Stevensage v Notts County, Tranmere v Scunthorpe.

League 2: AFC Wimbledon v Oxford Utd, Aldershot v Torquay, Bradford v Rochdale, Burton Albion v Southend, Cheltenham v Bristol Rovers, Chesterfield v Morecambe, Dag & Red v Port Vale, Exeter v Barnet, Fleetwood Town v York, Gillingham v Northampton v Salisbury, Wycombe, Rotherham v Accrington Stanley.

#### BLUE SQUARE BET CONFERENCE

Premier: Barrow v Macclesfield, Braintree Town v Woking, Dartford v Cambridge Utd, Forest Green v Kidderminster, Hereford v Newport County, Lincoln City v Gateshead, Luton v Ebbsfleet United, Mansfield v Grimsby, Nuneaton v Alfreton Town, Southport v Hyde, Stockport County v AFC Telford, Wrexham v Tamworth.

South: AFC Hornchurch v Billericay, Bath City v Dorchester, Chelmsford v Boreham Wood, Eastleigh v Havant & Waterlooville, Farnborough v Salisbury, Hayes & Yeading v Basingstoke, Staines v Maidenhead, Sutton v Welling, Tonbridge Angels v Bromley, Truro v Weston-super-Mare.

#### EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: Banbury v Kettering, Bedworth v Arlesey, Cambridge City v Chippenhams, Chesham v Barwell, Frome v St Albans, Hemel Hempstead v Bashley, Hitchin v Leamington, Redditch v Gosport Borough, Stourbridge v AFC Totton, Weymouth v St Neots.

Division One South & West: Bridgwater v Wimborne, Cinderford v Clevedon, Didcot v Sholing, Mangotsfield v Bishops Cleeve, North Leigh v Cirencester, Poole Town v Taunton, Shortwood v Merthyr Town, Swindon Supermarine v Abingdon Utd, Tiverton v Paulton Rovers, Winchester City v Hungerford.

#### SYDENHAMS LEAGUE

Premier Division: Fareham v Totton & Eling, GE Hamble v Christchurch, Hamworthy Utd v AFC Portchester, Hayling Utd v Newport IoW, Horndean v Bemerton HH, Lymington Town v Bournemouth Poppies, Moneyfields v New Milton, Romsey v Fawley, Verwood v Alton.

Division One: Brockenhurst v Hythe & Bidben, East Cowes Vics v Andover New Street, Petersfield v Amesbury, Pewsey Vale v Stockbridge, Ringwood v Cowes Sports, Team Solent v Laverstock & Ford, US Portsmouth v Tadley Calvea, Whitchurch v Fleet Spurs.

#### PUMA ENGINEERING HPL

Senior Division: AFC Stoneham v Hamble Club, Colden Common v Otterbourne, Fleetlands v Clansfield, Hedge End Rangers v Winchester Castle, Liphook Utd v Liss Athletic, Overton v AFC Aldermaston, Paulsgrove v Looe Heath, QK Southampton v Bournemouth Sports, Sporting BW v University of Portsmouth.

#### Sunday, December 30

#### Barclays Premier League

Everton v Chelsea (1.30), QPR v Liverpool (4.00).

#### New Year's Day

(Selected fixtures)

#### BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE

West Brom v Fulham (12.45), Man City v Stoke, Swansea v Aston Villa, Tottenham v Reading, West Ham v Norwich, Wigan v Man Utd, SAINTS v Arsenal (5.30).

#### BLUE SQUARE BET CONFERENCE

South: Basingstoke v Farnborough, Billericay v Chelmsford, Boreham Wood v Staines, Bromley v Sutton, Dorchester v Truro, Dover v Tonbridge Angels, Havant & Waterlooville v Eastbourne Borough, Maidenhead v Hayes & Yeading, Salisbury v Eastleigh, Welling v AFC Hornchurch, Weston-super-Mare v Bath City.

#### EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: AFC Totton v Hemel Hempstead, Arlesey v Hitchin, Barwell v Stourbridge, Bashley v Gosport Borough, Bideford v Weymouth, Chippenhams v Frome, Leamington v Bedworth, Redditch v Banbury, St Albans v Chesham, St Neots v Cambridge City.

Division One South & West: Abingdon Utd v North Leigh, Bishops Cleeve v Cinderford, Cirencester v Swindon Supermarine, Clevedon v Bridgwater (1.00), Hungerford v Didcot, Merthyr Town v Evesham, Paulton Rovers v Mangotsfield, Sholing v Winchester City, Taunton v Tiverton, Wimborne v Poole Town, Yate v Shortwood.

#### WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE

WCL Cup, third round: Christchurch v Fleet Town.

Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Winchester City, AFC Totton v Dorchester Town, Bemerton HH v Poole Town, Gosport Borough v Bashley, Sholing v Moneyfields, Wimborne Town v Salisbury City.

Wyvern Challenge Shield: Group A: Newport IoW v Farnham Town; Group B: Laverstock & Ford v Downton; Group C: New Milton Town v Romsey Town; Group D: Alton Town v Horndean.

MORE NON-LEAGUE IN MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO



# Non-league Football

# MAGPIES FLYING UNDER THE RADAR

**Wendy Gee**

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**NON-LEAGUE REPORTER**

**ALRESFORD Town are happy to slip quietly under the radar when it comes to Sydenhams Premier Division title talk.**

Despite losing 1-0 at Hamworthy United last Saturday, the Magpies are having a magnificent season and are one of a cluster of teams who could be in the frame come the end of April.

Even to be considered as possible contenders is an extraordinary achievement for a club who have finished no higher than 15th in the past and last term reached 50 points for the first time.

But, as the footballing cliché goes, co-managers Tim Cole and Danny Robinson are taking it one game at a time and are just glad to be in amongst it.

"We're in some great company at the top of the Wessex League," said Robinson, pictured below.

"There was an article in the *Daily Echo* recently when a manager said that any one of eight teams could win the title and we weren't even considered!

"But that's OK with us. The way me and Tim operate is to set our stall out to win every game we play and just do the best we can.

"When the final whistle went at Hamworthy last week, they celebrated the victory and I took that as a compliment to Alresford. It shows how far we've come.

"It used to be that teams would beat us and nothing was said."

Though the Hamworthy game was packed with chances, it was settled by one moment of controversy 20 minutes from time.

Stephen Walker rose to meet a corner from the right and the Alresford bench were convinced fellow centre-back Greg Horlock handled the ball before stabbing it home.

"It was a scrappy goal," said Robinson. "Their centre-half won the header and then the other centre-half hooked it forward with his arm, swung a leg out and it dribbled over the line.

"It was a disappointing way to lose, but I still felt our performance was very good.

"It was a real close game with lots of chances. Their keeper Andy Knights made a couple of great saves and our keeper Steve Phillips did the same.

"We've played



**RETURNING TO FOOTBALL:** Adam George.

worse, like we did at Fawley, and still got the three points."

Alresford were without goal machine Zach Glasspool (hamstring) and skipper and midfielder Simon Everett who has been sidelined for six weeks with a groin injury.

In Everett's absence, former Sholing reserve team player Chris

Manning has been outstanding since switching from right-back.

"Tim and I had Chris for a little while at Winchester's under-18s," said Robinson.

"When he came to Alresford he'd played centre midfield all his life but one day we had to play him at right-back and he's been excellent there.

"But Simon's injury meant we put Chris in midfield again alongside Stuart Green and he's done superbly. He scored our equaliser in the

## Former City high flier set for Town stint

**FORMER** Winchester City skipper Adam George is set to return to football with Sydenhams Premier high-fliers Alresford Town.

George has had a lengthy spell out of the game but has recently joined Alresford for training and will be pressing for selection in the new year.

A former Eastleigh youngster, George was taken to Winchester by Andy Leader and, by time he left, was their longest serving player.

Alresford co-boss Danny Robinson said: "Adam was meant to be going to Australia and has had half a year out of the game.

"I know him from his Winchester days and he rang and said he might want to get involved at Alresford. We're not going to turn down a player with Southern League experience.

"He's done a couple of training sessions but he can't commit until after Christmas because of work commitments.

"Adam lives local-ish to Alresford and he's a lovely lad as well. He has settled in well with the other players.

"We're happy to have him, but he's going to have to fight for a shirt."

Alresford's ranks have also been strengthened by the return of right-back James Eyles.

"James was with us last year but hasn't been around this season due to work commitments," Robinson explained.

"He's missed football so much that he wants to get back involved."

Hamshire Senior Cup win over Aldershot and was on a par with Stuart Green as our best player against Hamworthy."

On Tuesday night Alresford powered into the Sydenhams League Cup semi-finals with a 4-0 win at US Portsmouth - Mike McEnery (2), Joe Wright and Ash Ledger the scorers.

The Magpies now face another Division 1 side East Cowes Vics for the right to play either Blackfield & Langley or Brokenhurst in the final.

## Non-league News

### Robins fatten up for Christmas

**SYDENHAMS** Premier Division leaders Downton have added to their slimline squad.

Manager Jeff Softley has welcomed winger Craig Lewis back into the Wick Lane fold after a spell with Western League outfit Gillingham Town.

Although the Robins have pulled six points clear at the top of the table following back-to-back wins over Alton Town and title rivals Christchurch, Softley is concerned that their squad lacks the strength in depth of some of their rivals - particularly with injuries taking their toll.

Attacking bright spark Danny Urry is out until at least the middle of January with a knee problem and both Jamie Waters (knee) and Matt Scott (torn thigh muscle) are struggling.



"With the squad we've got, what we've achieved is unbelievable," said Softley, left.

"I'd love to say we will win the league, but we've had so many injuries. I know the other top teams have

had injuries too, but we haven't got such a big squad as some of them.

"We've re-signed Craig Lewis, who went to Gillingham, and brought a couple of reserve team players - Matt Gurd and Dan Teller - onto the bench.

"It's good to have Craig back. With his pace and skill, he will give us a little bit more to win games."

Softley has promised to run naked through the streets of Salisbury if his table-topping Robins claim the Wessex crown.

But despite their lofty position going into Christmas, he is not preparing to strip off any time soon!

"People talking about us winning the league is ridiculous," he said.

"Don't get me wrong, I'd love to win it, but there's a big 'but' there.

"We've still got to go to Blackfield, Moneyfields, Alresford, Bemerton and to Christchurch on the last day of the season.

"The lads are absolutely great and have done everything that's been asked of them. But we've had so many injuries and we've got such a limited squad.

"If we could end up in the top four, that would be tremendous, but that's as far as I'm prepared to go at the moment."

Having led 3-0 against Alton last Saturday through Vince Rusher, Nic Turpin and Josh Thomas, Downton survived some late jitters as the Brewers pulled back to 3-2.

And there more nervous moments against Christchurch on Tuesday when, with the score at 1-1, they had defender Brandon Mundy sent off for a professional foul on pacy Priory teenager Harry Cornick in the 55th minute.

But, against the odds, the ten-man Robins reclaimed the lead through Danny Finnigan before top scorer Nic Turpin put the gloss on a 3-1 win.

Earlier Declan McGregor had put Downton in front before Christchurch replied through a Ben Osborne penalty.



SOUTHERN  
**Daily Echo**

# FIND THE BALL



## THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT

# £12,000

## or £1,300 nearest miss prize...

**PLUS 70 consolation prizes of £15 each week****20 for Southern Daily Echo  
20 for Daily Echo Bournemouth  
10 for Dorset Echo  
10 for Sunday Independent  
10 for Brighton Argus**

**F**IND THE BALL is a test of skill and football knowledge and is open to readers of the Southampton, Bournemouth, Dorset Echos, Brighton Argus and Sunday Independent, Plymouth.

You have to use your skill and judgement to determine the exact centre of the ball.

Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be – clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

Every coupon will be carefully examined and the jackpot prize will be paid to the entrant whose cross marks the exact centre of the ball when the photograph was taken.

If the Jackpot is not won, £1,000 will be added to next week's jackpot and £50 will be added to the nearest-miss prize.

The nearest-miss prize will be paid out to the competitor whose cross is nearest to the centre of the ball when there is no jackpot winner.

When a jackpot has been won the next week's prize reverts back to £6,000 and the nearest-miss prize at £1,000.

If the Jackpot is not won after 45 weeks, when standing at £50,000, three nearest miss prizes will be awarded totalling £24,000 – with a first prize of £12,000, a second prize of £8,000 and a third prize of £4,000.

The jackpot for the following week will be £26,000 with £1,000 being added each week. The nearest miss prize will be £2,000 with £50 added each week until the jackpot prize reaches £50,000.

If there is still no entry showing the exact centre of the ball, the process is repeated until there is an exact centre of the ball winner.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

### RESULTS



**CLOSING DATE FOR POSTAL ENTRIES**  
Thursday  
9am,  
10 January  
2013  
Names of winners will be published on  
**Saturday,**  
12 January  
or **Sunday**  
13 January  
2013

Winners Repeated 22 & 29 December, & 5 January Competition number **S49**

### JACKPOT WINNER **NO WINNER**

#### CONGRATULATIONS

Mrs M Coleman, Southampton, Hants  
who wins the Runner Up prize of £1,250

The following competitors each receive a consolation prize of **£15**

Mrs D Bastable, Stockbridge, Hants  
Mrs L Cauty, Romsey, Hants  
Mr J Cleary, Southampton, Hants  
Mr T Curtiss, Romsey, Hants  
Mrs P Dally, Southampton, Hants  
Mrs E Dawkins, Southampton, Hants  
Mrs P Field, Southampton, Hants  
Mrs M Freeman, Southampton, Hants  
Mr S Goddard, Southampton, Hants  
Mrs D Goodman, Southampton, Hants

Mr C Hall, Southampton, Hants  
Mr G Harris, Gosport, Hants  
Mr A Jacobs, Eastleigh, Hants  
Mr R Jacobs, Eastleigh, Hants  
Mrs L James, Southampton, Hants  
Mr G Marsh, Southampton, Hants  
Mrs D Noke, Southampton, Hants  
Mr A Sainsbury, Southampton, Hants  
Mrs S Shelley, Southampton, Hants  
Mrs C Young, Southampton, Hants

### Rules

1. You are allowed a minimum of 60 crosses and a maximum of 325 per coupon. Coupons with 326 or more will be disqualified. Entries altered defaced or mutilated will be invalid. Crosses must be distinct and separate. 2. Competitors may submit as many coupons as they wish. Members of a family can send their entries in one envelope with a covering postal order or cheque. 3. No responsibility can be accepted for entries delayed, lost or mislaid. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. 4. Payment may be made by postal order or cheque for the correct amount payable to Newsquest, and crossed 'X' Co.' Stamps will not be accepted in payment. 5. A competitor cannot win more than one share of the prize money across all titles each week. 6. The Editor's decision on winning entry or entries and matters relating to this competition is binding in honour only. NO CORRESPONDENCE CAN BE ENTERED INTO. 7. Employees of NEWSQUEST Media Group and subsidiary companies and members of their families are not eligible to enter the competition. 8. Address entries to FTB PO Box 24 Competitions, Southampton SO16 9ZD in a sealed envelope. Understamped entries are not accepted. 9. Prize monies are held for and on behalf of winners. 10. Do not send cash in the post. 11. Winners will be required to participate in publicity. 12. Photocopies not accepted. 13. For rules go to [www.dailyecho.co.uk/promotions/rules](http://www.dailyecho.co.uk/promotions/rules), [www.newsquest.co.uk/terms](http://www.newsquest.co.uk/terms) or write in for a copy.

An incident in a Totton v Bideford match

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE ONLY



Please use black/blue ink and capitals

**22 & 29 December, 2012, 5 January, 2013**

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# Non-league Action

## KILLICK HAILS 'UNPLAYABLE' PRESTON

**POOLE Town winger Carl Preston is "unplayable" on his day, according to Tatnam boss Tommy Killick.**

The former AFC Bournemouth wideman ended a two-month goal drought by netting twice for the promotion-chasing Dolphins in a 4-0 Southern One South & West win at Abingdon United last Saturday.

"Prezza was a big threat and caused them all sorts of problems," said Killick, pictured.

"On his day he is unplayable at this level – and he had one of his days against Abingdon.

"It goes with the territory for a player of his ilk to perform in fits and starts. He can have a real purple patch and then he might have a bit of a lull.

"He was probably a bit flat earlier in the season, but is doing very well at the moment. When he plays like he did against Abingdon, you can't fail to be impressed."

Preston, 21, took his season's tally to nine goals after Dorchester loan striker Warren Byerley had opened the scoring for the Dolphins. The last word went to former Basingstoke, Newport IoW and Gosport midfielder Glenn Howes with his first goal of the campaign.

"We were exceptional in the first half, really powerful," said Killick.

"The team spirit is good and there is a steely determination about the players.

"They are self-motivated and, when

you have a group like that, you don't need to give any Churchillian speeches because it all comes from within. That's the way it should be. There is a real hunger about them."

Marquee signing Michael Charles, snapped up for an undisclosed fee from Winchester City, was handed his debut as a substitute on the hour.

"There wasn't an awful lot going on when Michael came on, but he showed some good touches," said Killick.

"I know he is going to be a big player for us and a very good acquisition."

Charles proved as much on Tuesday when he opened his Dolphins goal account in another 4-0 victory at Didcot Town that hoisted Poole to the top of the table.

The 25-year-old doubled the visitors' lead when he latched onto a through ball from fellow substitute Will Spetch and applied a lethal finish 15 minutes from time.

Earlier, towering defender Michael Walker had powered home a header from Luke Burbidge's corner to give the Dolphins an eight-minute lead.

Preston got Poole's third to take his personal haul for the season into double figures and it was his mesmeric wing play that set up Burbidge for goal number four.

"Early on, it was probably more even than scoreline suggests," Killick admitted.

"The performance on Saturday was as comprehensive as the result but, on Tuesday, we took our chances well and had to defend well at times."



**HITTING A PURPLE PATCH:** Poole wideman Carl Preston.

### STANDINGS

#### BLUE SQUARE BET CONFERENCE SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Salisbury City	19	13	3	3	36	21	42
Dover	20	12	4	4	36	18	40
Welling United	18	11	4	3	37	19	37
Boreham Wood	17	8	6	3	27	14	30
Farnborough	18	8	3	7	36	30	27
Cheimsford	16	8	3	5	24	22	27
Weston-S-Mare	19	7	6	6	25	25	27
Bath City	18	7	3	8	30	29	24
Hayes & Yeading	18	7	3	8	31	32	24
Billerica Town	19	7	3	9	30	24	24
Eastbourne Boro	19	7	3	9	20	24	24
Eastleigh	18	7	2	9	27	33	23
Hornchurch	20	6	5	9	24	30	23
Sutton United	18	5	7	6	22	24	22
Dorchester	15	7	1	7	16	23	22
Staines Town	20	6	4	10	28	39	22
Maidenhead Utd	18	6	3	9	31	29	21
Tonbridge	18	4	8	6	29	32	20
Havant & W	19	4	8	7	26	31	20
Bromley	17	5	4	8	19	25	19
Basingstoke Tn	18	4	6	8	20	29	18
Truro City	19	5	3	11	22	36	8

#### EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hemel Hempst	21	13	3	5	57	30	42
Leamington	17	12	3	2	33	17	39
Cambridge City	19	11	2	6	32	25	35
Stourbridge	20	9	6	5	42	23	33
St. Neots Town	19	9	3	7	46	39	30
St. Albans City	20	9	3	8	36	32	30
Barwell	18	8	5	5	34	24	29
Weymouth	19	8	5	6	31	32	29
Bedford Town	21	8	4	9	29	29	28
Chippenham Tn	20	7	5	8	27	26	26
Gosport Borough	19	6	7	6	36	26	25
AFC Totton	18	7	4	7	31	29	25
Bedworth United	20	7	4	9	20	32	25
Arlesey Town	16	7	2	7	22	22	23
Bashley	19	7	2	10	23	33	23
Frome Town	19	6	4	9	21	27	22
Bideford	19	6	3	10	30	40	21
Chesham United	17	5	5	7	20	26	20
Banbury United	19	6	5	8	30	36	23
Redditch United	18	5	4	9	16	29	19
Hitchin Town	18	6	2	10	24	33	20
Kettering Town	18	2	5	11	13	42	1

\* ten points deducted

#### DIVISION ONE SOUTH & WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poole Town	17	13	3	1	37	14	42
Hungerford Tn	20	13	2	5	34	27	41
Swindon S'	16	12	2	2	36	14	38
Tiverton Town	20	9	7	4	36	23	34
Merthyr Town	17	9	4	4	33	20	31
Bridgwater Tn	16	8	2	6	30	21	26
Paulton Rovers	18	7	4	7	28	34	25
Cirencester Tn	19	7	4	8	27	38	25
Shortwood	17	7	3	7	24	23	24
Clevedon Town	20	6	6	8	31	35	24
North Leigh	17	6	4	7	30	26	22
Wimborne Tn	17	6	4	7	30	32	22
Evesham Utd	20	6	4	10	29	33	22
Abingdon Utd	17	7	1	9	25	30	22
Cinderford Tn	17	6	2	9	30	35	20
Mangotsfield	17	4	7	6	24	30	19
Taunton Town	17	5	4	8	30	37	19
Winchester City	19	6	1	12	24	36	19
Bishops Cleeve	15	4	5	6	24	25	17
Yate Town	15	4	2	9	22	30	14
Didcot Town	17	3	5	9	23	39	14
Sholing	12	2	4	6	18	23	10

#### SYDENHAMS LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Downton	19	14	3	2	48	21	45
Bemerton HH	19	12	3	4	44	24	39
Christchurch	19	12	2	5	45	19	38
Alresford Town	19	12	1	6	45	28	37
Moneyfields	18	11	3	4	31	19	36
Newport (IOW)	15	9	5	1	33	20	32
GE Hamble	18	9	4	5	38	31	31
Fareham Town	18	9	3	6	36	27	30
Blackfield & L	13	8	3	2	22	15	27
Fawley	19	8	1	10	36	43	25
Totton & Eling	17	7	3	7	31	36	24
Bournemouth	19	7	3	9	38	45	24
Hamworthy Utd	19	6	5	8	37	31	23
AFC Portchester	18	7	2	4	40	43	23
Verwood Town	18	5	5	8	28	35	20
Hayling United	16	6	1	9	28	47	19
Hordean	15	5	1	9	27	37	16
Alton Town	19	4	3	12	33	45	15
Lyminster Tn	18	2	4	12	22	37	10
New Milton Tn	17	2	3	12	24	37	9
Romsey Town	19	2	0	17	16	63	6

#### DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cowes Sports	13	11	0	2	38	12	33
Team Solent	12	10	1	2	31	12	31
Brockenhurst	12	10	0	2	34	10	30
Whitchurch	14	8	2	4	25	14	26
Petersfield Town	14	8	1	5	43	26	25
Pewsey Vale	13	7	3	3	37	18	24
Fleet Spurs	15	7	1	7	35	29	22
US Portsmouth	14	6	3	5	32	28	21
Tadley Calvea	14	6	2	6	35	25	20
East Cowes Vics	15	5	3	7	34	37	18
Stockbridge	13	5	1	7	25	31	16
Laverstock & F	15	4	2	9	21	47	14
Ringwood Town	14	4	0	10	22	43	12
Andover New St	13	3	2	8	19	43	11
Amesbury Town	13	2	1	10	14	38	7
Hythe & Dibden	13	2	0	11	12	44	6

## Town sign up Cuss until end of 2014/15 season



**NEW DEAL:** Steve Cuss.

WIMBORNE Town boss Steve Cuss has signed an extended contract that will keep him at Cuthbury until at least the end of the 2014/15 campaign.

Cuss was handed his first managerial role in April 2011 as Alex Browne's successor at the Dorset club.

Finding himself with only three players on the books that summer, he had to build a squad capable of competing in the Evo-Stik Southern One South & West.

And after a tough start, the former Poole Town assistant boss has steadily overseen an upturn in the Magpies' fortunes.

Cuss is also heavily involved in football in his day job, heading up AFC Bournemouth's Community Sports Trust.

Paul Miller, Wimborne's vice-chairman, said: "Steve is an integral part of Wimborne Town and is very much part of our plans to take the club forward.

"We cannot express strongly enough how delighted we are that he has agreed to help Wimborne progress at least until the end of the 2015 season, not only on the pitch but off it as well."

Having pushed their way towards the South & West play-off zone, Wimborne have lost ground of late, losing four of their last five games.

Last Saturday they were outclassed 3-0 by Merthyr Town at Cuthbury as the Welsh outfit clinically followed up their 5-1 FA Trophy win against the Magpies in October.

"We were a little disappointed we didn't get closer to them in terms of performance, but full credit to Merthyr because they are a very well organised side with some good individuals," said Cuss.

"We have gone through a spell where we have played some of the top teams in the league and that has got to be our next target.

"Although we have established ourselves this season and been competitive in every game, we probably haven't had quite enough to beat the top teams.

"We are definitely closing the gap, but are still a little behind them. Our next target is to find that little bit extra.

"The top teams are clinical in both penalty boxes and that is what we have got to try to start matching.

"I know we have got the players within the squad to do it."

Wimborne made amends on Tuesday, storming back from behind to beat Conference South outfit Dorchester Town 3-2 in the Dorset Senior Cup quarter-final.

Matt Kemble (2) and fellow former Cherries trainee Jamie Davidson got the goals that knocked out the holders at Cuthbury.

Dorchester had Charlie Clough dismissed for a second yellow at the death.



# Review of the Year

# Scholes returns;

## JANUARY

1. Sunderland beat Barclays Premier League leaders Manchester City 1-0 thanks to a goal from striker Ji Dong-won deep into injury time.

Everton also grabbed a late winner, Victor Anichebe striking three minutes from time to sink West Brom 1-0.

Liverpool were urged by anti-racism campaigners to drop their public support of Luis Suarez following his eight-match ban after he was found guilty of racially abusing Patrice Evra.

2. Arsenal's last-gasp defeat at Fulham allowed London rivals Chelsea to go fourth in the Barclays Premier League after they won 2-1 at Wolves.

Adrian Lewis retained the PDC World Darts Championships title with a 7-3 victory over Andy Hamilton in the final at Alexandra Palace.

Former Everton and Liverpool defender Gary Ablett died aged 46 after a long battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

3. Liverpool confirmed they would not be appealing against forward Luis Suarez's eight-match ban imposed for racially abusing Manchester United defender Patrice Evra.

Manchester City beat Liverpool 3-0 at the Etihad Stadium to move three points above Manchester United at the top of the Barclays Premier League.

QPR announced they would appeal against the red card shown to captain Joey Barton for his apparent headbutt on Norwich midfielder Bradley Johnson on January 2. Barton also posed the question on Twitter of whether it was possible for him to sue the referee, Neil Swarbrick.

4. Goals by Demba Ba and Yohan Cabaye and a Phil Jones own goal guided Newcastle to a 3-0 win over Manchester United.

QPR midfielder Joey Barton's appeal against his red card for violent conduct against Norwich was dismissed.

Harlequins scrum-half Danny Care was excluded from England's Six Nations squad after his arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol, the RFU announced.

5. Former England boss Steve McClaren was confirmed as the new manager of Dutch side FC Twente as he returned for his second spell at the club.

6. Manchester United and Wayne Rooney issued a statement in which they described a newspaper report that the England striker was about to leave the club as "nonsense".

Liverpool and Merseyside police launched an investigation into an incident during the FA Cup third round tie against Oldham at Anfield, which Liverpool won 5-1, where visiting defender Tom Adeyemi was seemingly the target of abuse from fans.

Thierry Henry completed a short-term return to Arsenal after signing on loan from the Major League Soccer's New York Red Bulls.

7. Swindon caused the biggest upset of



**BACK IN THE OLD ROUTINE:** Manchester United's Paul Scholes and, inset, Wayne Rooney.

the day as the npower League Two side came from behind to beat Wigan 2-1 in their FA Cup third round tie at the County Ground.

Disgraced former Pakistan pace bowler Mohammad Asif appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport against his seven-year ban for spot-fixing.

8. Paul Scholes came out of retirement and appeared as a substitute for Manchester United against Manchester City in their FA Cup third-round win at the Etihad Stadium.

QPR sacked manager Neil Warnock with the team just a point clear of the Premier League's bottom three.

Top seed Andy Murray secured his first title of 2012 in clinical fashion at the ATP Brisbane International with victory over Ukraine's Alexandr Dolgoplov.

9. Thierry Henry came off the bench to score the only goal on his second Arsenal debut as the Gunners beat Leeds 2-1 in the third round of the FA Cup.

Barcelona forward Lionel Messi won the Ballon d'Or for the third year running.

10. Mark Hughes signed a two-and-a-half year contract to become QPR's new manager.

Crystal Palace beat Cardiff at Selhurst Park in the first leg of their Carling Cup semi-final, with central defender Anthony Gardner scoring the only goal two minutes before half-time.

11. Steven Gerrard scored the only goal of the game from the penalty spot as Liverpool posted a 1-0 win over Manchester City in the first leg of their Carling Cup semi-final tie at the

Etihad Stadium.

Tottenham moved level on points with second-placed Manchester United after defeating Everton 2-0 in their rearranged Barclays Premier League meeting at White Hart Lane. The match had originally been scheduled for the opening day of the season but was postponed due to last August's London riots.

Stuart Lancaster launched England's new era in rugby union when he announced an elite squad featuring nine uncapped players and 13 changes from the failed World Cup campaign.

12. Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard signed an undisclosed contract extension.

Former Essex player Mervyn Westfield, 23, admitted a corruption charge linked to a NatWest Pro40 match at the Old Bailey.

13. England closed out a second successive warm-up victory today as they continue to fine-tune their preparations for the three-Test series against Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates.

World Boxing Association vice president Gilberto Jesus Mendoza has confirmed they had granted Amir Khan a rematch against Lamont Peterson.

14. Paul Scholes scored as Manchester United beat Bolton 3-0 to keep up the pressure on Barclays Premier League leaders Manchester City.

Elsewhere in the Premier League Tottenham were held to a 1-1 draw by Wolves, Chelsea beat Sunderland 1-0 and Stoke claimed a goalless draw at Liverpool.

James Ward and Laura Robson qualified for the main draw of the Australian Open.



# Review of the Year

# Roo stays put



**AUSSIE RULE:**  
Novak Djokovic won the Australian Open.

**15.** Danny Graham struck the winner as Swansea claimed the first major scalp of their maiden Premier League campaign with a thrilling victory over Arsenal at the Liberty Stadium.

**16.** Chelsea completed the signing of England defender Gary Cahill from Bolton.  
Five British players - Heather Watson, James Ward, Elena Baltacha, Laura Robson and Anne Keothavong - went out on the opening day of the Australian Open.

**17.** Great Britain's Andy Murray beat American Ryan Harrison 4-6 6-3 6-4 6-2 in the first round of the Australian Open.  
England collapsed to Saeed Ajmal at the start of their first Test series as the world's top team, against Pakistan in

the United Arab Emirates. Ajmal dismissed three batsmen in five balls on his way to a career-best seven for 55 - including five lbws - in a total of 192 all out.

**18.** Lamont Peterson confirmed he had submitted a "comprehensive written appeal" against the WBA's decision to order a rematch against Britain's Amir Khan.  
Gavin Henson was included in Wales' 35-man training squad for the RBS 6 Nations.

**19.** Andy Murray beat France's Edouard Roger-Vasselin 6-1 6-4 6-4 in the second round of the Australian Open.  
England lost by 10 wickets to Pakistan in the first Test in Dubai.  
Chris Coleman was appointed as the

new Wales national team manager, succeeding his friend, the late Gary Speed.

**20.** British sprinter Bernice Wilson had a four-year suspension upheld by an independent National Anti-Doping Panel following a positive drugs test in June 2011.

**21.** Bolton boosted their Barclays Premier League survival hopes with a shock 3-1 win over Liverpool. Chelsea were held 0-0 by Norwich, Robbie Keane marked his Aston Villa debut with two goals in a 3-2 win over Wolves, Fulham hammered Newcastle 5-2, Sunderland beat Swansea 2-0 and QPR beat Wigan 3-1.  
Munster secured the top seeding for the Heineken Cup quarter-finals with a 51-36 win over Northampton.

**22.** Neil Robertson was crowned BGC Masters champion after defeating Shaun Murphy 10-6 in the final at Alexandra Palace.

**23.** The Football Association charged Mario Balotelli with violent conduct after he appeared to kick out at Tottenham's Scott Parker.

Andy Murray earned a place in the Australian Open quarter-finals when opponent Mikhail Kukushkin retired with the game almost won.  
Leicester won 2-0 at Southampton in the npower Championship.

**24.** Manchester City revealed Carlos Tevez's stand-off with the club had so far cost the Argentinian striker £9.3m in lost wages and bonuses, while insisting the player would only leave the club on their terms - and the news came on the

same day that Mario Balotelli's agent said his client could leave England if he continued to be "persecuted" by referees.

Cardiff beat Leicester 3-1 on penalties after their Carling Cup semi-final ended 1-1 on aggregate in South Wales.

Portsmouth were issued with a winding up order by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs over an unpaid tax bill of £1.6m.

**25.** Liverpool booked their place in the Carling Cup final after a 2-2 draw against Manchester City in the second leg of their semi-final clash at Anfield sealed a 3-2 aggregate victory. Craig Bellamy scored Liverpool's winning goal 16 minutes from the end to send his former club crashing out.

Andy Murray booked an Australian Open semi-final clash world number one Novak Djokovic after seeing off the challenge of Japan's Kei Nishikori 6-3 6-3 6-1.

**26.** Rafael Nadal completed a remarkable journey from pre-tournament tears to Australian Open finalist after a stunning victory over Roger Federer.

The decision to build the Olympic Stadium without a guaranteed tenant to take over the venue after the 2012 Games has been defended by the head of the Olympic Delivery Authority.

**27.** Andy Murray's hopes of reaching a third successive Australian Open final were extinguished by Novak Djokovic after an extraordinary five-set encounter in Melbourne.

**28.** England were bowled out for 72 on day four of the second Test against Pakistan to go 2-0 behind in the three-match series.

Victoria Azarenka beat Maria Sharapova 6-3 6-0 in the Australian Open women's singles final.

Dirk Kuyt scored the winner as Liverpool defeated Manchester United 2-1 in the fourth round of the FA Cup.

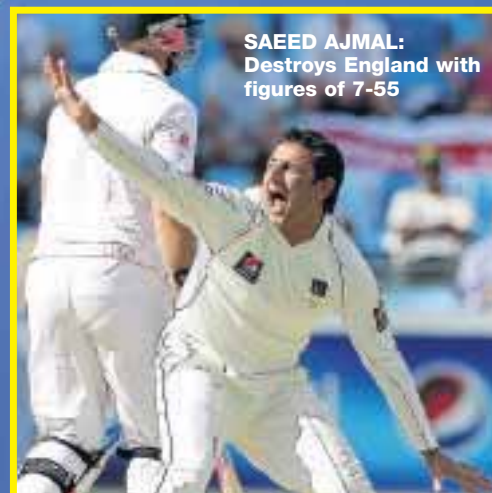
**29.** Novak Djokovic beat Rafael Nadal in a five-set thriller to win the Australian Open men's singles title, his third successive grand slam triumph.

**30:** The inquest into the death of former Wales manager Gary Speed was told he was found hanged in his home after rowing with his wife.

Portsmouth's bank accounts were frozen following the issuing of a winding-up petition issued against the npower Championship club by HM Revenue & Customs.

**31.** Everton brought in striker Nikica Jelavic from Rangers and re-signed midfielder Steven Pienaar on loan from Tottenham, with striker Louis Saha moving to White Hart Lane ahead of the transfer deadline as Roman Pavlyuchenko left for Lokomotiv Moscow.

QPR were also active on the final day of the window, bringing in a new strike-force of Djibril Cisse and Bobby Zamora.



**SAEED AJMAL:**  
Destroys England with figures of 7-55



# Review of the Year

# Sport is dragged

## FEBRUARY

**1.** Pakistan cricketer Mohammad Amir was released from jail after serving half of a six-month sentence for his part in a fixing scam.

England captain John Terry was ordered to stand trial for allegedly racially abusing Anton Ferdinand after the Euro 2012 Championship, in the week beginning July 9. The Chelsea defender did not attend the first hearing in the case at Westminster Magistrates' Court in London.

**2.** FIFA demanded a full report into the violence at the match in Egypt that left more than 70 people dead.

**3.** Chelsea defender John Terry was stripped of the England captaincy by the Football Association until after his racism court trial.

Sixteen wickets fell on a hectic first day of the third Test in Dubai, Stuart Broad and James Anderson hustling Pakistan out for 99 before England were reduced to 104 for six at stumps.

**4.** England beat Scotland 13-6 in the RBS 6 Nations match at Murrayfield. France beat Italy 30-12 in first match of the Championship at the Stade de France in Paris.

Nottingham Forest owner Nigel Doughty was found dead at his home in Lincolnshire.

Robin van Persie smashes a hat-trick as Arsenal thrash 10-man Blackburn to win in the Barclays Premier League for the first time this year.

**5.** Manchester United scored three second-half goals – two from the spot – to come from 3-0 down to draw 3-3 with Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

England coach Fabio Capello said he disagreed with the Football Association's decision to strip John Terry of the England captaincy.

**6.** Liverpool striker Luis Suarez returned to action following his eight-match ban for racially abusing Patrice Evra. Suarez came on as a second-half substitute in a 0-0 draw against Tottenham.

England lost the third Test against Pakistan in Dubai by 71 runs, meaning they lost the series 3-0 – their first series whitewash since Australia beat them 5-0 in 2007.

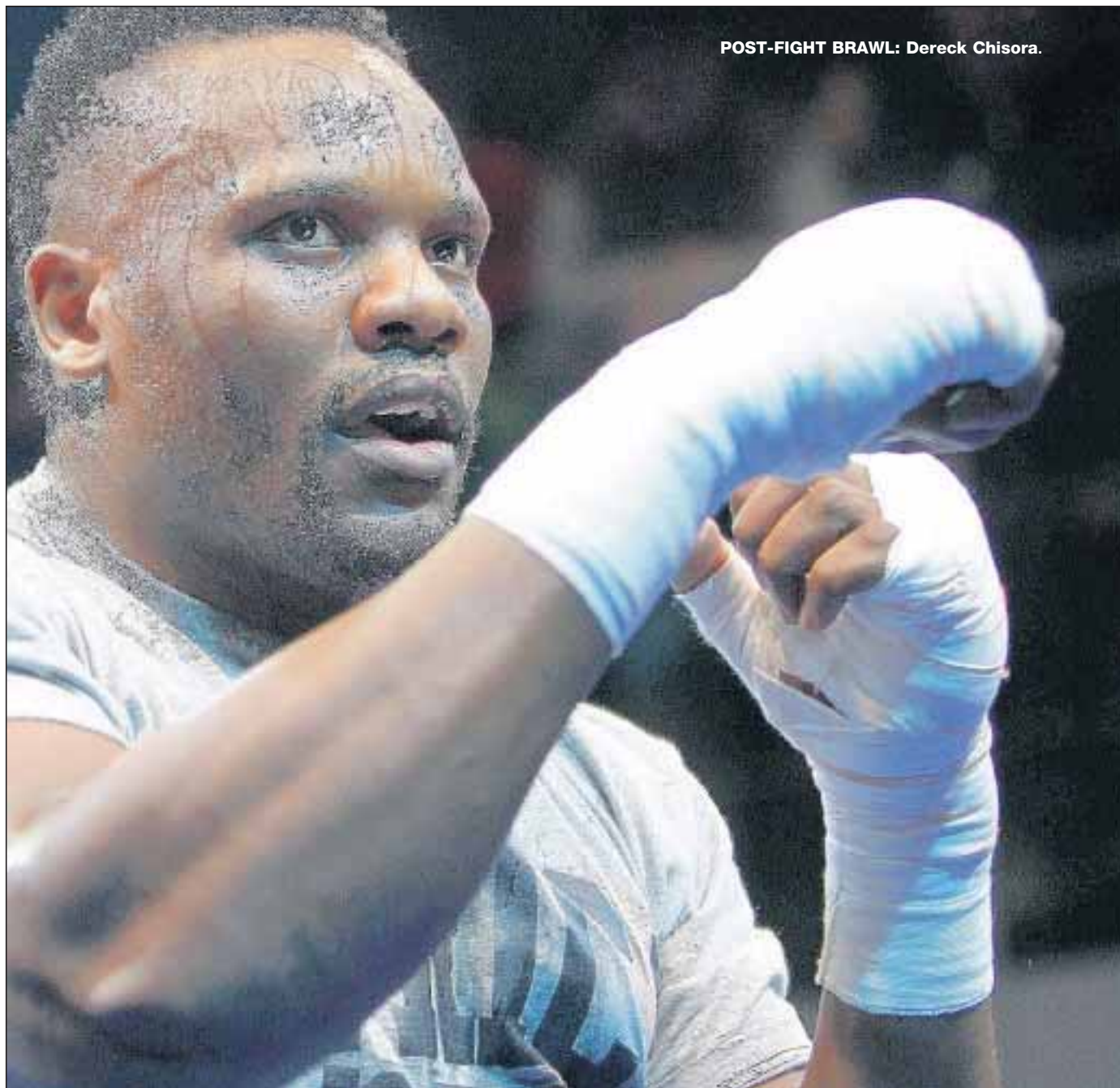
The New York Giants won Super Bowl XLVI with a 21-17 win over the New England Patriots in Indianapolis.

**7.** Jurors at the Harry Redknapp tax evasion trial retired to consider their verdicts.

**8.** Fabio Capello resigned as England coach just days after criticising the FA's decision over John Terry's axing as captain.

Harry Redknapp and his former Portsmouth chairman Milan Mandaric cleared of tax evasion.

**9.** FA chairman David Bernstein confirmed England Under-21 boss Stuart Pearce would take charge of the



POST-FIGHT BRAWL: Dereck Chisora.

England team for the friendly against Holland on February 29.

Lamont Peterson agreed to a rematch with Amir Khan at the Mandalay Bay Hotel in Las Vegas for May 19.

**10.** Harry Redknapp ruled out the idea of combining the roles of England and Tottenham manager.

**11.** The Luis Suarez racism row was reignited when the Uruguayan

appeared to refuse to shake Patrice Evra's hand before Liverpool faced Manchester United at Old Trafford.

England came from behind to beat Italy 19-15 in their RBS 6 Nations match in Rome. The match between France and Ireland was postponed because of weather conditions in Paris.

**12.** Liverpool issued several apologies in response to Luis Suarez's failure to shake the hand of Patrice Evra before Liverpool's match at Manchester

United 24 hours earlier.

Zambia clinched their first African Nations Cup crown with a poignant penalty shoot-out win over Ivory Coast. Nineteen years after a plane crash which killed 18 members of their squad in Libreville, the Chipolopolo returned to the Gabon capital to record the most famous victory in the country's history.

**13.** England beat Pakistan by 130 runs in the first one-day international in Abu Dhabi.

**14.** Rangers officially went into administration.

Carlos Tevez returned to Manchester City from his self-imposed exile in Argentina, a day after accusing manager Roberto Mancini of treating him "like a dog" on the day he refused to warm up during a Champions League game at Bayern Munich.

**15.** England won second one-day international against Pakistan in Abu Dhabi by 20 runs and lead the four-



# Review of the Year

# through gutter ...

**RACISM ROW:** Liverpool's Luis Suarez, left.



**RESIGNATION:**  
Fabio Capello.

match series 2-0.

**16.** Manchester City informed UEFA of their intention to complain after Mario Balotelli and Yaya Toure suffered from alleged racist abuse during the 2-1 win at Porto in the Europa League.

Rangers' administrators admitted they were concerned by the club's dealings as they began investigations into financial troubles at Ibrox, saying a £24m loan against ticket sales had not

been passed through the club's accounts.

**17.** Portsmouth went into administration for the second time in two years, and were deducted 10 points as a result.

Dereck Chisora lit the touchpaper ahead of his February 18 WBC heavyweight title challenge by slapping champion Vitali Klitschko at the weigh-in in Munich.

Victoria Pendleton and Jess Varnish

claimed Great Britain's first gold medal at the Olympic Velodrome, winning the women's team sprint in a world record time at the Track World Cup in London. Joanna Rowsell, Dani King and Laura Trott then also set a world record to win gold in the women's team pursuit.

**18.** England beat Pakistan by nine wickets in the third one-day international in Dubai, to secure a series victory.

Dereck Chisora lost his WBC heavyweight title fight against Vitali Klitschko on a unanimous points decision in Munich.

**19.** Derek Chisora and David Haye trade insults during the press conference following the Klitschko fight before an ugly brawl breaks out, sending camera equipment crashing to the floor.

Sir Chris Hoy today claimed his second gold medal of cycling's Track

World Cup at London's Olympic Velodrome with victory in the men's sprint.

**20.** David Haye said in a statement he would, if requested, "happily assist the boxing authorities with any investigation they wish to launch" following Saturday's press conference fracas with fellow British heavyweight Dereck Chisora.

Chisora "wholeheartedly apologised" for his conduct before and after his fight against Vitali Klitschko in Munich on Saturday.

Former Sunderland chairman Niall Quinn stepped down from his role as director of international development.

**21.** Kevin Pietersen's second successive one-day international hundred, a fine innings of 130, carried England to a four-wicket victory over Pakistan in Dubai to seal a 4-0 series whitewash.

**22.** West Ham's former Manchester United midfielder Ravel Morrison has been fined £7,000 and warned as to his future conduct after he admitted a charge of using abusive and/or insulting words including a reference to a person's sexual orientation.

**23.** England lost the first Twenty20 international against Pakistan in Dubai by eight runs.

**24.** Terry Connor was named Wolves manager until the end of the season after the club struggled to appoint a successor to Mick McCarthy.

**25.** Wales beat England 19-12 in their RBS 6 Nations match at Twickenham to clinch the Triple Crown.

Ireland defeated Italy 42-10 in their RBS 6 Nations match at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin.

England beat Pakistan by 38 runs in the second Twenty20 international in Dubai, to level the series with one match remaining.

**26.** Liverpool won the Carling Cup after a 3-2 penalty shootout victory over Cardiff in the final at Wembley. The match finished 2-2 after extra time. France beat Scotland 23-17 in their RBS 6 Nations match at Murrayfield.

**27.** England clinched the Twenty20 series against Pakistan by beating their opponents by five runs in the third and final match in Abu Dhabi.

**28.** Eoin Morgan was dropped from the England Test squad for the tour of Sri Lanka, with Samit Patel receiving his first Test call-up.

Dereck Chisora was handed "an indefinite suspension against fighting again for a WBC title" following his conduct at the WBC heavyweight title fight against Vitali Klitschko in Munich on February 18.

**29.** England, after fighting back from two goals down to 2-2, lose 3-2 to Holland in their international at Wembley following a stoppage-time Arjen Robben goal.



# Review of the Year

# Muamba makes

## MARCH

1. FIFA disclosed they were looking at "very detailed documentation" provided by former vice-president Jack Warner as part of investigations into reports that aid money for earthquake-hit Haiti never got through to the island.

2. Andy Murray beat world number one Novak Djokovic to reach the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships final, which he lost to Roger Federer.

3. Arsenal strengthened their bid for a Champions League spot with a 2-1 win away to Carling Cup winners Liverpool as rivals Chelsea lost 1-0 at West Brom. Five swimmers – Hannah Miley, Aimee Willmott, Roberto Pavoni, Joe Roebuck and Robbie Renwick – booked their places at the London Olympics by setting qualifying times on the first day of competition at the Aquatics Centre.

4. Chelsea sacked manager Andre Villas-Boas after just eight months in charge.

5. Ramires signed a new contract which committed him to Chelsea until 2017. Rangers' administrators opted to consider a proposal from players overnight after failing to reach consensus over wage cuts.

6. Former England captain Lewis Moody retired from rugby because of persistent injury problems.

7. Lionel Messi scored five goals as Barcelona destroyed unfortunate Bayer Leverkusen 7-1 to confirm their place in the Champions League quarter-finals 10-2 on aggregate.

8. Both Manchester clubs suffered shock defeats in the first legs of their Europa League last-16 ties, City going down 1-0 at Sporting Lisbon and United losing 3-2 at home to Athletic Bilbao.

9. Jessica Ennis won a silver medal in the pentathlon at the World Indoor Championships in Istanbul.

10. Wales set up an RBS 6 Nations title decider with France with a 24-3 win over Italy in Cardiff. Ireland defeated Scotland 32-14 in Dublin.

Former model Danielle Lloyd launched a verbal attack at Wolves fans on Twitter after her boyfriend Jamie O'Hara was confronted as he carried the couple's young child outside Molineux following a 2-0 defeat by Blackburn.

11. Manchester United moved top of the Barclays Premier League, beating West Brom 2-0 as rivals Manchester City went down 1-0 at Swansea. Norwich and Wigan drew 1-1 at Carrow Road.

England beat France 24-22 in their RBS 6 Nations match in Paris, helped by tries from Manu Tuilagi, Ben Foden and Tom Croft.

Britain took gold and silver in the women's and men's 4x400 metres respectively at the World Indoor Athletics Championships in Istanbul, the men's quartet denied gold after the United States successfully appealed against



**CHEATED DEATH:** Fabrice Muamba.

their disqualification. Pole vaulter Holly Bleasdale and long-jumper Shara Proctor took bronze, while Mo Farah missed out in the 3,000m as Kenyan Edwin Soi's disqualification was overturned.

12. Arsenal made it five Barclays Premier League wins on the bounce as they defeated Newcastle 2-1 at Emirates Stadium thanks to a Thomas Vermaelen

winner in the fifth minute of injury time.

13. Steven Gerrard scored a hat-trick as Liverpool beat derby rivals Everton 3-0 at Anfield.

Rock On Ruby, trained by Paul Nicholls and ridden by Noel Fehily, won the Stan James Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham.

14. Finian's Rainbow, trained by Nicky Henderson and ridden by Barry



Geraghty, won a dramatic sportingbet.com Queen Mother Champion Chase at Cheltenham.

Dean Richards was appointed Newcastle Falcons' director of rugby for the start of the 2012-13 season. Richards could not take over before August, due to his 'Bloodgate' suspension.

15. Manchester United and Manchester

City both went out of the Europa League, with United losing 5-3 on aggregate to Athletic Bilbao, and City exiting on away goals after drawing 3-3 with Sporting Lisbon.

16. India batsman Sachin Tendulkar scored his 100th international century, reaching the milestone in the Asia Cup match against Bangladesh in Mirpur. Chelsea were drawn against Benfica in



# Review of the Year

# miracle recovery



**TON OF TONS:** Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar.



**OPENING WIN:** McLaren driver Jenson Button.

on his return to the Manchester City team, coming off the bench to help Roberto Mancini's side to a 2-1 win over Chelsea.

**22.** Wales forwards coach Robin McBryde signed a contract to remain with the national set-up until the 2015 World Cup, bringing him into line with the rest of the Grand Slam-winning coaching team.

Britain's kit for the London 2012 Olympics, designed by Stella McCartney, was launched.

Cardiff's Millennium Stadium was unveiled as the starting point for the 2013 Rugby League World Cup.

**23.** West Ham confirmed they had submitted a bid to become tenants of the Olympic Stadium in London after the 2012 Games.

**24.** Aviva Premiership side Sale parted company with coach Tony Hanks.

Wigan gave their Premier League survival hopes a boost with a surprise 2-1 win over Liverpool at Anfield.

Lewis Hamilton secured pole at the Malaysian Grand Prix, with team-mate Jenson Button in second.

**25.** Rangers beat Celtic 3-2 at Ibrox to deny the visitors the chance to celebrate winning the Clydesdale Bank Premier League title at the home of their great rivals.

Fernando Alonso won the rain-hit Malaysian Formula One Grand Prix with Sergio Perez in second and Lewis Hamilton third.

The sport of darts mourned the death of former world champion Jocky Wilson.

**26.** An imperious century from Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene frustrated England on a finely-balanced opening day of the first Test in Galle.

**27.** Salomon Kalou scored the only goal as Chelsea won 1-0 at Benfica in the first leg of their Champions League semi-final.

**28.** Manchester City banned BBC reporter Dan Roan from club facilities after Patrick Vieira complained he had misrepresented comments about Manchester United receiving beneficial treatment from referees.

**29.** Stuart Lancaster was named the new England head coach by the Rugby Football Union.

England lost the first Test against Sri Lanka by 75 runs in Galle.

Northampton's Calum Clark was suspended for 32 weeks after pleading guilty to hyperextending the right arm of Leicester's Rob Hawkins during the LV Cup final.

**30.** Aston Villa captain Stiliyan Petrov announced he had been diagnosed with acute leukaemia.

**31.** Cardiff Blues utility back Gavin Henson was suspended with immediate effect following an incident on the flight back from Scotland after last night's 31-3 defeat at Glasgow Warriors.

the quarter-finals of the Champions League, with reigning European champions Barcelona possible semi-final opponents.

**17.** Bolton midfielder Fabrice Muamba was critically ill in intensive care after collapsing on the pitch during the FA Cup quarter-final against Tottenham, which was abandoned.

Wales won the Grand Slam after beat-

ing France 16-9 in Cardiff. England defeated Ireland 30-9, while Scotland finished as wooden spoonists after a 13-6 loss to Italy.

Tom Daley proved his Olympic platform medal hopes were very much alive after winning silver at the first leg of the World Series in Dubai.

**18.** McLaren's Jenson Button won the season-opening Australian Grand Prix.

Red Bull's reigning Formula One champion Sebastian Vettel was second with Lewis Hamilton (McLaren) third.

**19.** The hospital treating Bolton midfielder Fabrice Muamba confirmed the player was able to "breathe independently" and "recognise family members and respond to questions appropriately" 48 hours after he suffered cardiac arrest in an FA Cup quarter-final tie against Tottenham.

**20.** Professional Footballers Association chief executive Gordon Taylor reveal his organisation has spent around £7m over the last 20 years on screening professional footballers for heart defects.

**21.** Bolton team doctor Jonathan Tobin revealed Fabrice Muamba was "effectively dead" for 78 minutes following his cardiac arrest at Tottenham on Saturday. Carlos Tevez set up the winning goal



# Review of the Year

# Saints are back

## APRIL

**1.** Andy Murray suffered a 6-1 7-6 (7/4) defeat to world number one Novak Djokovic in the final of the Sony Ericsson Open in Miami.

Gavin Henson issued a statement apologising for drinking and "behaving inappropriately" on a flight from Glasgow to Cardiff and admitted he was "truly embarrassed" by the incident.

**2.** Gavin Henson was sacked by Cardiff Blues for his drunken behaviour on a flight from Glasgow to Cardiff the previous weekend.

**3.** A drop of almost 25% in the number of adults playing tennis prompted Sport England to cut their funding of the sport by £530,000.

Barcelona qualified for the Champions League semi-finals for the fifth consecutive with a 3-1 home win over AC Milan, following a goalless first leg.

**4.** Chelsea beat Benfica 2-1 at Stamford Bridge in the quarter-finals of the Champions League, securing a 3-1 aggregate success and a semi-final clash with Barcelona.

Great Britain's Ed Clancy, Pete Kennaugh, Steven Burke and Geraint Thomas won gold in the team pursuit in a world record of three minutes 53.295 seconds at the Track Cycling World Championships in Melbourne.

**5.** Great Britain's Joanna Rowsell, Dani King and Laura Trott claimed gold in the three-kilometre team pursuit at the Track Cycling World Championships in Melbourne. Britain clocked a world record time of three minutes 15.720 seconds in the final.

Kevin Pietersen scored 151 in the second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo, his 20th Test hundred as England scored 460.

**6.** Great Britain's Victoria Pendleton won gold in the women's sprint at the Track Cycling World Championships in Melbourne. Sir Chris Hoy and Jason Kenny set up a semi-final meeting in the men's event.

Graeme Swann took two late wickets as Sri Lanka ended day four of the second Test at 218 for six, with a lead of 33 over England.

**7.** Celtic won the Clydesdale Bank Premier League title after beating Kilmarnock 6-0 at Rugby Park.

England retained their place at the top of the ICC Test rankings by beating Sri Lanka by eight wickets in the second Test at Colombo. It meant the series was drawn 1-1.

Cambridge won the 158th Xchanging Boat Race, which was disrupted by a man swimming in the River Thames near the crews.

**8.** Bubba Watson beat Louis Oosthuizen in a sudden death play-off to win the Masters at Augusta.

Sir Chris Hoy won gold in the men's keirin at the Track Cycling World Championships in Melbourne.



**FAN-TASTIC:** Ricky Lambert is lifted shoulder high as fans celebrate promotion to the Premier League following Saints' 4-0 win over Coventry City at St Mary's.

**11.** Carlos Tevez scored on his first start since his public feud with boss Roberto Mancini as Manchester City beat West Brom 4-0 to move five points behind rivals United, who lost 1-0 at Wigan.

**13.** Former England striker Trevor Francis was admitted to Birmingham Heartlands

Hospital following what his former club Birmingham described as a suspected heart attack.

The FIA announced the Bahrain Grand Prix would go ahead as planned on April 22.

Reading moved a step closer to the Premier League with a 3-1 victory at second-placed Southampton.

**14.** Neptune Collonges, trained by Paul Nicholls and ridden by Daryl Jacob, won the John Smith's Grand National at Aintree. The race was marred by tragedy as Cheltenham Gold Cup winner Synchronised suffered a fatal injury in the race.

Liverpool beat Everton 2-1 in their FA Cup semi-final at Wembley.

**15.** Nico Rosberg of Mercedes won the Chinese Grand Prix, his first Formula One victory in his 111th race.

**16.** Bolton midfielder Fabrice Muamba was discharged from the London Chest Hospital a month after suffering a cardiac arrest in an FA Cup tie at Tottenham. Former England striker Trevor Francis



# Review of the Year

# in the big time



was also discharged from hospital in Birmingham following a suspected heart attack on March 13.

**17.** Reading earned promotion back to the Barclays Premier League as a late goal from Mikele Leigertwood gave them a 1-0 win over Nottingham Forest.

**18.** Chelsea edged out Barcelona 1-0 in the first leg of their Champions League semi-final at Stamford Bridge thanks to a Didier Drogba goal on the stroke of half-time.

**19.** Rob Howley was appointed caretaker head coach of Wales for the summer internationals against the Barbarians and

Australia to allow Warren Gatland to recover from injuries suffered in a domestic accident.

**20.** Sheffield United and Wales footballer Ched Evans was jailed for five years after being found guilty at Caernarfon Crown Court of raping a woman who was "too drunk to consent" to sex. Port Vale

defender Clayton McDonald was found not guilty of the same charge.

**22.** Arsenal striker Robin van Persie was named the Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year. Tottenham right-back Kyle Walker received the Young Player of the Year award. Manchester United's lead at the top of

the Barclays Premier League was cut to three points after they drew 4-4 at home to Everton. Second-placed Manchester City won 2-0 at Wolves, who were relegated.

Sebastian Vettel won the Bahrain Grand Prix with Kimi Raikkonen in second and his team-mate Romain Grosjean third.

Kenya's Mary Keitany won the Virgin London Marathon for the second year in succession. Kenya's Wilson Kipsang won the men's London Marathon.

**23.** West Ham took their npower Championship automatic promotion challenge to the final day of the season as they came from behind to beat Leicester 2-1 at the King Power Stadium.

**24.** Chelsea reached the Champions League final after a 2-2 draw against Barcelona at the Nou Camp.

**25.** Bayern Munich booked a place in the Champions League final against Chelsea with victory in the penalty shootout against Real Madrid. Cristiano Ronaldo missed in the shootout which Bayern won 3-1.

**26.** The Premier League announced there would be no pre-match handshake at the game between Chelsea and QPR due to the legal situation involving John Terry and Anton Ferdinand.

West Indies batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul became only the 10th batsman to reach 10,000 runs in the third Test against Australia in Dominica.

**27.** Barcelona confirmed coach Pep Guardiola would not renew his contract and would leave the club at the end of the season. His assistant Tito Vilanova was appointed first-team coach for the new campaign.

**28.** Southampton won promotion to the Premier League following a 4-0 win over Coventry.

**29.** The Football Association received permission to speak to West Brom manager Roy Hodgson about the vacant England position.

Chelsea hammered struggling QPR 6-1 and Tottenham sent Blackburn one step closer to relegation with a 2-0 success.

Leinster booked an all-Ireland Heineken Cup final against Ulster after seeing off Clermont 19-15.

**30.** Manchester City beat Manchester United 1-0 to return to the top of the Barclays Premier League on goal difference, with just two matches of the season remaining. Vincent Kompany scored the only goal at the Etihad Stadium on the stroke of half-time.

Dwain Chambers and David Millar were cleared to be selected for London 2012 after the Court of Arbitration for Sport declared the British Olympic Association's lifetime ban on drugs cheats was not in compliance with the World Anti-Doping Agency code.

Roy Hodgson held a "positive" four-hour meeting with the Football Association as the West Brom boss moved a step closer to becoming England's new manager.



# Review of the Year

# HIGH DRAMA AS

## MAY

1. Roy Hodgson was appointed as England manager on a four-year deal. Stephen Hendry announced his retirement after losing to 13-2 Stephen Maguire in the World Championship quarter-finals at the Crucible.

2. Real Madrid won the Primera Division title after beating Athletic Bilbao 3-0. It meant Jose Mourinho had won league titles in four different countries.

3. Wrestler Myroslav Dykun – one of Team GB's most promising medal hopes for the London 2012 Olympic Games – was suspended after testing positive for amphetamines.

Jack Collison's double strike helped West Ham take a huge stride closer to the Barclays Premier League with a 2-0 win at Cardiff in the first leg of their npower Championship play-off semi-final.

4. Blackpool eked out a 1-0 win over Birmingham in their npower Championship play-off semi-final first leg.

Chelsea unveiled plans to build a new, purpose-built stadium at Battersea Power Station.

5. Chelsea won their fourth FA Cup in six years thanks to a 2-1 win at Wembley over Liverpool. Ramires and Didier Drogba scored the goals.

Sheffield Wednesday were promoted to the Championship courtesy of a 2-0 home win over Wycombe.

6. Manchester City and Manchester United both won 2-0, against Newcastle and Swansea respectively, to go into the final day of Barclays Premier League fixtures level on points but with City's goal difference superior by eight.

Djibril Cisse's late winner against Stoke, coupled with Bolton throwing away a two-goal lead to draw with West Brom, boosted QPR's hopes of avoiding relegation.

7. Blackburn were relegated from the Barclays Premier League after losing 1-0 at home to Wigan.

Ronnie O'Sullivan won the Snooker World Championship for a fourth time after beating Ali Carter 18-11 in the final at the Crucible in Sheffield.

8. It was announced that Dereck Chisora and David Haye would fight at Upton Park on July 14, following up their Munich press conference brawl. The pair were licensed for the fight by the Luxembourg boxing federation.

9. Atletico Madrid won the Europa League with a 3-0 win in the final against fellow Spaniards Athletic Bilbao. Radamel Falcao scored two superb goals in the first half and Diego rounded off the win late on.

The British Boxing Board of Control warned all those involved in the heavy-weight promotion between David Haye and Dereck Chisora would be automatically stripped of their licences.



**CLOCKWISE (FROM RIGHT):** Manchester City players celebrate winning the Barclay's Premier League with a 3-2 victory against QPR on the last day of the season, David Haye and Dereck Chisora square up at the announcement of their much-anticipated fight, and Chelsea boss Roberto Di Matteo celebrates winning the Champions League.

10. Amir Khan's world light-welterweight title rematch against Lamont Peterson, scheduled for May 19, was cancelled after the American champion tested positive for a banned substance.

The countdown to the London 2012 Games began in earnest as the Olympic Flame was lit in ancient Olympia.

11. Manchester United and England defender Chris Smalling was ruled out of Euro 2012 due to a groin injury.

12. Great Britain's Mhairi Spence won gold at the Modern Pentathlon World Championships in Rome.

13. Manchester City won the Barclays Premier League title after a thrilling 3-2 win at home to QPR. Bolton were relegated along with Blackburn and Wolves after drawing 2-2 at Stoke.

Williams driver Pastor Maldonado won the Spanish Grand Prix in Barcelona. Fernando Alonso (Ferrari) finished second and Lotus driver Kimi Raikkonen third.

14. Aston Villa terminated the contract of manager Alex McLeish with immediate effect.

Gary Neville was appointed as an England coach on a four-year contract. Sir Alex Ferguson said Paul Scholes

has agreed to play on for another season with Manchester United.

Manchester City apologised to Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson after striker Carlos Tevez was pictured carrying a banner which read 'RIP Fergie' at their title parade. Tevez said he "didn't mean any disrespect".

15. Dylan Hartley was recalled to the England squad for the Barbarians clash on May 27 after completing an eight-week ban for biting.

Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland formally declared an interest in jointly hosting Euro 2020.

16. Kenny Dalglish was sacked as Liverpool manager after a meeting with owners Fenway Sports Group.

Roy Hodgson named his Euro 2012 squad, controversially leaving out Rio Ferdinand and including John Terry. Uncapped pair Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and John Ruddy were selected, with Steven Gerrard named as captain.

17. Striker Michael Owen revealed he would not be offered a new contract at Manchester United.

Wigan boss Roberto Martinez was given permission by the Latics to speak to Liverpool about the vacant manageri-



# Review of the Year

# CITY WIN TITLE...



al position.

Yorkshire batsman Jonny Bairstow made his Test debut for England in the opening Test against the West Indies at Lord's.

Tonia Couch and Sarah Barrow ended Great Britain's 74-year wait for a female European Diving Championships title by taking gold in the 10metre platform synchro in Eindhoven.

**18.** The Olympic flame arrived in Great Britain on a flight from Greece ahead of a 70-day tour of the country.

Andrew Strauss made his first Test century in 18 months as England took

control against the West Indies at Lord's.

**19.** Chelsea won the Champions League with a 4-3 penalty shoot-out win over Bayern Munich. The game ended 1-1 after extra time, with Didier Drogba scoring Chelsea's goal and the winning penalty.

West Ham earned promotion back to the Premier League with a 2-1 play-off final win over Blackpool.

Leinster won the Heineken Cup with a 42-12 victory over Ulster at Twickenham.

**21.** England secured a five-wicket win

over West Indies in the first Test at Lord's.

**22.** Chelsea confirmed striker Didier Drogba would leave the club when his contract expired at the end of June.

Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho signed a new contract which tied him to the club until 2016.

Manchester City announced midfielder Owen Hargreaves would leave on the expiry of his contract this summer.

**23.** QPR midfielder Joey Barton was banned for a total of 12 matches and fined £75,000 following his dismissal

against Manchester City. The Football Association confirmed an independent regulatory committee found him guilty of two counts of violent conduct.

England batsman Kevin Pietersen was fined by the England and Wales Cricket Board for comments made on Twitter about Sky television commentator Nick Knight.

**24.** It was announced that goal-line technology would be tested in England's friendly against Belgium at Wembley on June 2.

Henrietta Knight, the three-times Gold Cup-winning trainer, announced her retirement.

**25.** Norwich goalkeeper John Ruddy withdrew from England's Euro 2012 squad with a broken finger. Birmingham's Jack Butland was named as his replacement.

Marlon Samuels and Darren Sammy combined for an unbeaten 168-run stand as West Indies rallied to reach 304 for six on day one of the second Test with England.

Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola's final match in charge ended with a 3-0 victory over Athletic Bilbao in the Copa del Rey final - the 14th trophy of his four-year reign.

**26.** Ashley Young scored as England beat Norway 1-0 in a friendly in Roy Hodgson's first match in charge.

Harlequins won the Aviva Premiership final at Twickenham, beating Leicester 30-23.

England Test captain Andrew Strauss hit his 21st Test century after finishing the second day of the second Test with West Indies on 102 not out. Kevin Pietersen contributing a rapid 72no in a stumps score of 259 for two.

**27.** Tim Bresnan got three wickets as England reduced West Indies to 61 for six at the end of the third day of the second Test, a lead of just three after England had been bowled out for 428. Andrew Strauss made 141.

Jessica Ennis set a new British heptathlon record of 6,906 points in Gotzis, beating the previous mark of 6,831 set by former Olympic champion Denise Lewis in 2000.

**28.** Gareth Barry was forced to withdraw from England's Euro 2012 squad with a stomach injury, replaced by Everton defender Phil Jagielka.

Belgium midfielder Eden Hazard used his Twitter account to announce he had chosen to join Chelsea ahead of Manchester United and Manchester City.

England completed a series-clinching nine-wicket victory over the West Indies in the second Test at Trent Bridge.

**30.** Paul Scholes signed a one-year contract extension to keep him at Manchester United until the end of the 2012/13 season.

Scottish Premier League clubs took on responsibility for deciding whether 'newco' clubs should be admitted to the competition but rejected plans for fixed penalties for such clubs, chief executive Neil Doncaster announced.

Brendan Rodgers told Swansea chairman Huw Jenkins he wanted to take up an offer to manage Liverpool.

**31.** Frank Lampard was ruled out of Euro 2012 with a thigh injury.

England batsman Kevin Pietersen retired from international limited-overs cricket with immediate effect but opted to remain available for Test matches.

Swansea agreed a compensation package with Liverpool for manager Brendan Rodgers and three members of his backroom staff.



# Review of the Year

# Euro 2012 penalty

## JUNE

**1.** Brendan Rodgers was appointed as Liverpool's new manager, succeeding Kenny Dalglish after a compensation package was agreed with his former club Swansea.

Was, trained by Aidan O'Brien and ridden by Seamie Heffernan, won the Investec Oaks at Epsom.

**2.** Danny Welbeck scored his first England goal to earn a 1-0 victory in their final Euro 2012 warm-up match against Belgium at Wembley.

Aston Villa confirmed former Norwich boss Paul Lambert as their new manager.

**3.** England defender Gary Cahill was ruled out of Euro 2012 with a fractured jaw and was replaced by Liverpool's Martin Kelly - prompting an angry response from Jamie Moralee, representative of the overlooked Rio Ferdinand.

Tiger Woods won the Memorial Tournament in Ohio to move level with Jack Nicklaus on 73 PGA Tour wins, producing a memorable pitch-in for birdie at the 16th hole in his final round.

**5.** Scotland struck with the last kick of the game, from Greig Laidlaw, to claim a 9-6 victory over Australia in their one-off Test in Newcastle.

**6.** Andy Murray crashed out of the French Open with a 6-4 6-7 (3/7) 6-3 6-2 defeat by David Ferrer in the quarter-finals.

Taekwondo world number one Aaron Cook was overlooked for a third time for the Olympics after a reconvened selection panel failed to change their original decision not to pick him.

**7.** England striker Jermain Defoe returned home from Poland following the death of his father ahead of Euro 2012.

The World Taekwondo Federation announced they would hold a review into British Taekwondo's selection process for London 2012, citing a "lack of transparency over the decision to omit world number one Aaron Cook from the London 2012 Olympic squad".

Chris Hughton was appointed Norwich manager on a three-year contract.

**8.** Poland and Greece drew 1-1 in the opening game of Euro 2012, with both sides finishing the game with 10 men. The second game of the day saw Russia beat the Czech Republic 4-1.

**9.** Denmark sprung the first major surprise of Euro 2012 as they beat Holland 1-0, with Germany squeezing past Portugal by the same scoreline.

In rugby union's summer Tests, England lost 22-17 to South Africa, Ireland lost 42-10 to New Zealand and Wales lost 27-19 to Australia.

Maria Sharapova became the 10th woman to win all four grand slam titles with victory over Sara Errani at the French Open.

**10.** Lewis Hamilton produced a stunning drive to become the seventh differ-



**CLOCKWISE (FROM RIGHT):** England's players after their penalty shoot-out failings were highlighted once again in their Euro 2012 quarter-final defeat by Italy, Chelsea's Champions League-winning manager Roberto Di Matteo, Canadian Grand Prix winner Lewis Hamilton and French Open winner Maria Sharapova.

ent winner of the season with victory in the Canadian Grand Prix.

The Republic of Ireland lost their European Championship Group C opener 3-1 to Croatia in Poznan, with Spain and Italy drawing 1-1 in Gdansk.

The men's final of the French Open had to be abandoned for the day due to rain, with Rafael Nadal leading Novak Djokovic 6-4 6-3 2-6 1-2 in Paris.

**11.** England opened their Euro 2012 campaign with a 1-1 draw against France. Joleon Lescott headed England

ahead before Manchester City teammate Samir Nasri equalised. Ukraine beat Sweden 2-1 in the other game in Group D, Andriy Shevchenko scoring twice.

Rafael Nadal beat Novak Djokovic 6-4 6-3 2-6 7-5 to win a record seventh French Open singles and prevent the Serb holding all four grand slam titles simultaneously.

**12.** More than 100 fans were arrested after violent clashes before the Euro

2012 match between Poland and Russia in Warsaw. The match itself finished 1-1, while earlier the Czech Republic beat Greece 2-1.

**13.** Chelsea confirmed the appointment of Roberto Di Matteo as their permanent manager on a two-year contract.

At Euro 2012 Germany beat Holland 2-1 and Portugal edged out the Czech Republic 3-2.

**14.** Tottenham confirmed Harry

Redknapp had been sacked as manager following talks with chairman Daniel Levy.

The Republic of Ireland's hopes of reaching the group stages of Euro 2012 were ended in a 4-0 defeat to Spain, while Italy and Croatia drew 1-1.

**15.** England came from 2-1 down to beat Sweden 3-2 in their Euro 2012 Group D clash in Kiev.

Michael Laudrup was appointed the





# Review of the Year



# Woe for England...



new manager of Swansea.

France beat Ukraine 2-0 in their Euro 2012 Group D match in Donetsk.

**16.** Czech Republic and Greece qualified from Euro 2012 Group A after beating Poland and Russia respectively.

In rugby union's summer Tests, England lost 36-27 to South Africa, Ireland lost 22-19 to New Zealand, Wales lost 25-23 to Australia and Scotland beat Fiji 37-25.

England beat West Indies by 114 runs under the Duckworth/Lewis method in the first one-day international at the Ageas Bowl.

**17.** Germany and Portugal qualified from Euro 2012 Group B after beating Denmark and Holland respectively. Holland finished bottom after failing to secure a point.

David Nalbandian was disqualified from the AEGON Championships final against Marin Cilic at Queen's after

kicking an advertising board into a line judge's leg. He also forfeited his match fee.

**18.** Surrey cricketer Tom Maynard died aged 23 after being struck by a London Underground train in the early hours at Wimbledon Park.

Spain and Italy advanced from Group C of Euro 2012, as Spain beat Croatia 1-0 and Italy saw off the already eliminated Republic of Ireland 2-0.

**19.** England defeated Ukraine 1-0 in Donetsk to progress through to the quarter-finals of Euro 2012, where they met Italy. France set up a meeting with champions Spain after losing their final Group D match 2-0 against Sweden.

England beat West Indies by eight wickets at The Oval in the second NatWest Series match to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series.

**21.** Portugal advanced to the semi-finals of Euro 2012 with a 1-0 victory

over the Czech Republic in Warsaw.

**22.** Danish Kaneria was banned from English and Welsh domestic cricket for life following his involvement in a spot-fixing plot.

Germany progressed to the semi-finals of Euro 2012 with a 4-2 victory over Greece.

**23.** Spain progressed to the semi-finals of Euro 2012 with a 2-0 win over France.

England drew 14-14 with South Africa in Port Elizabeth, while elsewhere Scotland edged out Samoa 17-16, Wales were beaten 20-19 by Australia and Ireland went down 60-0 against the All Blacks.

**24.** England crashed out of Euro 2012 at the quarter-final stage with a 4-2 penalty shootout loss to Italy after a goalless draw between the two sides. Alex Hales struck the highest ever score by an England batsman in the Twenty20 format, with his innings of 99 inspiring a seven-wicket win over West Indies at Trent Bridge.

Ferrari's Fernando Alonso won the European Grand Prix in Valencia.

**25.** Five-time champion Venus Williams lost in the opening round at Wimbledon for the first time since she made her debut at the tournament.

**27.** Spain beat Portugal 4-2 on penalties in Donetsk to reach the European Championship final.

Heather Watson beat American Jamie Hampton 6-1 6-4 to become the first British woman to reach the third round of Wimbledon in 10 years.

Mo Farah retained his 5,000 metres title at the European Championships in Helsinki in a time of 13 minutes 29.91 seconds.

**28.** Italy beat Germany 2-1 in Warsaw to book a Euro 2012 final against defending champions Spain.

Rafael Nadal suffered a shock second-round Wimbledon exit to world number 100 Lukas Rosol 6-7 (11/9) 6-4 6-4 2-6 6-4.

**29.** Great Britain's Robbie Grabarz and Rhys Williams won gold in the high jump and 400 metres hurdles respectively at the European Championships in Helsinki.

Taekwondo world number one Aaron Cook finally admitted defeat in his bid to fight at London 2012 after deciding not to take his appeal against his exclusion from Team GB to the High Court.

**30.** Andy Murray won 7-5 3-6 7-5 6-1 against Cypriot Marcos Baghdatis in the third round at Wimbledon, in the latest ever finish at the tournament.

**REVIEW OF 2012'S  
SPORTS NEWS  
CONTINUES IN  
NEXT WEEKEND'S  
SPORTS PINK...**



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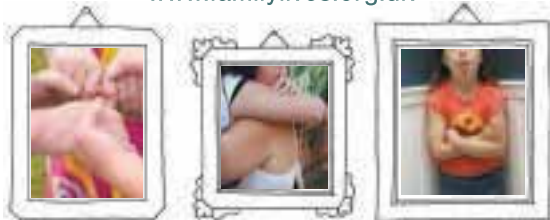
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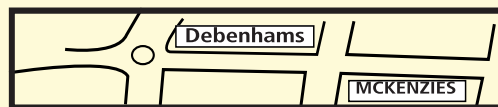
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# Non-league Football



## Aztecs taste defeat

BTC Vets stunned previously unbeaten Hythe Aztecs 4-0 in the ERA Vets League Cup with goals from Martin Chamberlain, Mark Wilkins, Dean Peacock and Dean Patterson.

In the B Division RS Winchester got back into the promotion frame on the back of a 3-0 win at Baddesley Park with Martin White, James Wilson and Steve King responsible. Compton eased their relegation fears with a 4-1 mauling of prop squad Sporting BTC B with Justin Wright on a treble and Stuart Shapland doing the business.

### DREW SMITH VETERANS

Woolston missed the chance to go clear at the top of the C division being held 3-3 by Michelmersh & T. Mike Allen, Mark Snelling and Shane Wheeler netted for Woolston – M&T replies from Mark Turnbull, Ed Miller and Martin Lucey.

In the Vets Over 40's Langley Tavern crushed Winchester OB 6-0 including a hat-trick from Mark Hughes with Don Keenan, Andy Patz and Dave Taylor completing the rout.

## QK back at the top

QK SOTON A jumped back to the top of Junior 1 with a comfortable 3-0 win at Compton courtesy of a Ben Scarborough double and a Bob Pearce goal.

The top pair in Junior 3 both played – and won. Bitterne had a narrow 2-1 verdict over strugglers AFC Gordons. Bitterne went 2-0 up through a Josh Fernandez brace before Gordons rallied through Will Reed and were unlucky not to equalise late on.

Warsash hang on their coat-tails after a fine 2-1 defeat of fellow

### JUNIOR LEAGUES

hopefuls Stanton. Chris Rose and Andy Valente were the Wasps marksmen with Nick Green replying. Both teams will be aware of the threat of AFC Gulf Western, lurking in mid table with a 100 percent record but heavily involved in cup competitions.

One game in Junior 5 saw Upham Res gain their second 3-1 win in a row – at New Forest Res – goals by George Hayman (2) and Tom King lifting them into mid table.

# Could be SEVEN-team fight for Premier title!

### DREW SMITH GROUP SOUTHAMPTON LEAGUE

**WITH one of the tightest title races in prospect for the Premier Division title over recent seasons, three teams go into the two-week Christmas break level on 16 points. And at least four others have realistic hopes of winning the league.**

Nursling top the table despite being held 3-3 by BTC in the only top flight game to beat the wet weather. Lance Dunham with a penalty, Dave Gentry and James Barefoot scored for Nursling with Kev Betlam netting twice and a Joe Connery penalty to draw BTC level, **WRITES ROD SUTHERLAND.**

Bush Hill were also in action but went down 3-1 at Sholing in the Southampton Senior Cup with Dean Laxton scoring their only goal. Bush and Netley CS are also on 16 points.

With games in hand Questmap, Comrades and Southampton University will also be in the mix if they triumph in their catch-up games. BTC themselves may harbour hopes as they have improved recently.

Hedge End Town leaped top of Senior 1 with a 4-2 win at Burridge AFC, who moved the match to Titchfield Rec in order to ensure it was played.

Andy Collins-Read seemed to have rewarded Burridge endeavours but Hedge End turned it around with Ben Dashwood, returning hero Dave Helps, Steve Deacon and John Horner putting them 4-1 up before Ryan Baddams' late consolation.

The Senior 1 title race is going to be as tight as the Premier with East Boldre, Soton Energy and Park Sports all chasing hard – while White Horse could move up dramatically if they win their games in hand.



**SOLENT SAINTS**, left, are Going well in Junior 1, Hampshire Junior A Cup and in Semi final of Southampton Div A Cup.

Top from left to right: David Finnigan, Rav Johal, Adam Betteridge, Matt Hemstead, Alex McGookin, Scott Blackwell, Pat Byatt.

Bottom: Tim Grounell, Michael Forbes, Niall Herbert, Joni Marsden, Chris Boxx, Tamlyn Goodrich.



**VERACITY VIPERS** are also in Junior 1 and still in both the title race and the Southampton DFA Cup semi finals

Top left to right: Jason Gradidge, Sam Barton, Keith Smart, Chris Castle, Dean Curnow, Warren Atterill, Ashley Harris, Adie Barrett, Mark Felton

Bottom left to right: Ricky Dugdale, Craig Shrimpton, Jason Curnow, Costa Sourmenidi, Sean Roger, Alan Lane, Richard Channell.

DREW SMITH GROUP SOTON FL										
Up to and including Saturday 15/12/12										
PREMIER										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS			
Nursling	8	5	1	2	24	9	16			
Bush Hill	7	5	1	1	16	8	16			
Netley Central Sp	7	5	1	1	17	12	16			
AFC Hittingbury	10	4	1	5	18	27	13			
Questmap	5	4	0	1	30	6	12			
Cadnam United	6	3	1	2	25	12	10			
Soton University	3	3	0	0	10	3	9			
Comrades	4	2	1	1	13	5	7			
Bish'stokes WMC	8	2	1	5	18	32	7			
BTC Soton	8	1	2	5	19	31	5			
Wh Star Wombles	7	0	1	6	2	28	1			
Thornhill	5	0	0	5	4	23	0			
SENIOR 1										
Hedge End Tn	10	7	1	2	33	20	22			
Soton Energy	8	7	0	1	45	8	21			
East Boldre	8	6	1	1	34	12	19			
Park Sports	6	5	0	1	19	7	15			
Comrades Res	11	4	2	5	23	26	14			
BTC Soton Res	7	4	1	2	20	17	13			
Nursling Res	7	3	0	4	15	20	9			
White Horse	5	2	0	3	17	19	6			
Hythe Aztecs	3	1	1	1	7	6	4			
Durley Res	9	1	1	7	10	36	4			
Burridge AFC	8	1	0	7	13	36	3			
Mich & T Res	8	0	1	7	7	36	1			
JUNIOR 1										
Q K Soton A	9	6	0	3	24	24	18			
Langley Manor	10	5	2	3	24	26	17			
Veracity Vipers	8	5	1	2	26	12	16			
Solent Saints	4	3	0	1	9	4	9			
Compton	7	2	2	3	18	19	8			
Braishfield	9	2	1	6	16	26	7			
Riverside	4	1	2	1	11	8	5			
AFC Grans	4	1	1	2	9	11	4			
Forest Tn Res	7	1	1	5	12	19	4			
JUNIOR 2										
Compton Res	8	7	1	0	22	11	22			
Harefield	6	6	0	0	29	9	18			
West Totton	7	4	0	3	18	13	12			
Questmap Res	9	3	1	5	24	39	10			
Chamberlayne	5	3	0	2	16	9	9			
London Airways	7	3	0	4	13	15	9			
Hamble Utd	6	2	1	3	19	13	7			
FC Wellington	5	1	1	3	21	14	4			
Inmar	5	1	0	4	8	23	3			
Otterbourne A	6	0	0	6	3	27	0			
JUNIOR 3										
Bitterne	12	6	4	2	43	23	22			
Warsash Wasps	9	6	1	2	24	17	19			
Stanton	11	5	2	4	36	22	17			
Wellow	9	4	0	5	16	19	12			
AFC Gulf Western	4	3	1	0	10	3	10			
Infinity Res	7	3	1	3	16	10	10			
Capital	8	3	1	4	20	23	10			
Lyndhurst Res	8	1	3	4	15	25	10			
Bricklayers AFC	8	1	3	4	15	36	6			
AFC Gordons	10	1	2	7	9	26	5			
JUNIOR 4										
Priority Rovers	7	4	2	1	24	10	14			
Chandlers Ford	6	4	1	1	23	8	13			
Horton Heath	8	4	1	3	29	23	13			
New Forest	7	3	2	2	13	19	11			
Harefield Res	8	3	0	5	20	25	9			
Cricketers E'stigh	6	2	1	3	13	20	7			
App'wood Joinery 3	4	1	1	2	12	8	6			
Botley Village	5	1	2	2	15	15	5			
S G Sports	6	1	2	3	16	25	4			
Gd Companions	6	1	1	4	15	26	4			
JUNIOR 5										
AFC Phoenix XI	9	7	1	1	27	14	22			
FC Wellington Res10	6	1	3	3	25	20	19			
Sporting Wessex	7	4	1	2	22	12	13			
Upham Res	10	4	1	5	31	28	13			
Athletico Romsey10	3	2	5	1	17	21	11			
Botley Village Res4	3	1	0	2	21	3	10			
Hamble Utd Res11	2	2	3	6	25	43	9			
New Forest Res11	2	2	7	16	33	8				
Rover	6	2	0	4	18	28	6			
JUNIOR 6										
Burridge Village	12	7	2	3	32	19	23			
Mitre	9	7	2	1	29	18	21			
AFC Station	8	6	1	1	34	10	19			
South Coast Sp	12	4	1	7	37	38	13			
AFC Stoneham A	9	4	1	4	25	26	13			
BTC Soton A	10	4	1	5	24	33	13			
B Waltham Dyn	4	4	0	0	20	6	12			
Braishfield Res	9	2	1	6	22	27	7			
Mich & T A	11	0	1	10	9	55	1			
VETERANS A										
C Common Vets	7	5	2	0	26	8	17			
Nursling Vets	3	3	0	0	9	5	9			
Redlynch & W Vets6	2	2	0	4	14	21	6			
Q K Soton Vets	6	2	0	4	11	21	6			
BTC Soton Vets A1	1	0	0	5	1	3				
Sporting BTC Vet A2	0	0	1	1	4	8	1			
GE Aviation Vets A5	0	1	4	7	7	12	1			
VETERANS B										
HEnd Rang Vet	6	5	1	0	12	5	16			
R S Winchester 84	4	2	2	23	11	14				
G E Aviation B	8	2	5	1	19	15	11			
Baddesley Park	8	3	2	3	14	16	11			
Hythe Aztec	3	3	0	0	10	1	9			
Northend Utd	7	3	0	4	9	11	9			
Compton Vets	7	2	0	5	16	16	6			
Sporting BTC B	7	0	0	7	7	35	0			
VETERANS C										
Royal Mail	7	5	1	1	21	20	16			
Woolston Vets	7	4	2	1	16	11	14			
Langley Manor	7	4	0	3	29	9	12			
Langley Tavern	4	4	0	0	15	1	12			
AFC Stoneham	6	3	0	3	19	13	9			
Priority Rovers Vets7	2	2	3	2	16	21	9			
Michelmersh & T	7	1	2	4	12	19	5			
Sholing	6	1	0	5	9	20	3			
Redbridge OB	7	1	0	6	11	34	3			
VETERANS OVER-40										
Locks Heath	8	6	1	1	33	15	19			
Wildern OB	6	4	0	2	21	16	12			
Langley Tav	7	3	1	3	23	17	10			
B Waltham Dyn	5	3	3	2	23	16	9			
O Tauntonians	6	3	0	3	17	14	9			
Hamble Club	5	3	0	2	15	15	9			
Winchester OB	8	2	1	5	14	26	7			
BTC Soton Vet	4	2	0	2	15	19	6			
Langley Manor	7	0	1	6	10	33	1			



# Non-league Football

# Peach of a win

**KINGS ARMS** Wallisdown's unbeaten record was ruined when **DIVISION FOUR** promotion rivals **Funky Peach** topped the leaders 4-0 with **John Turle** and **Dan Griggs** grabbing two goals each.

Tavla Spor extended their unbeaten run to seven games when they subdued Townsend Spartans 3-2 through Shivan Roushbaiani, Ako Solar, and an own goal while Ricky Barton (2), Charlie Lewis, James Carter, and Colin Brown earned Magpies a 5-5 draw with Three Cross.

Chris Tuvey struck for Christchurch Royals but Queens Park Rovers move past them into sixth place in the **SUNDAY PREMIER LEAGUE** table after Jake Ormond and Richard Collins gave them the edge 2-1.

Second placed Verwood SSC netted through Mark Crisp, Chris Thompson and an own goal in **DIVISION ONE** but Parley Sports gave them an 8-3 drubbing with hat-tricks from both River Smith and Matt Newbery and further goals from Dan Haynes and Toby Holmes.

Vienna Windows take over in the runners-up spot after Nick Lewis (2) and Ryan Woolfenden ensured a 3-1 victory over Kavell while Sam Adams scored both goals in Bournemouth Electric's 2-1 win over Bournemouth Athletic.

Mark Rourke struck twice for Lotus Press but their recent revival ended in a 3-2 defeat against Creekmoor Lions whose goals came via Gary Ryall (2) and Wayne Nash.

Glen Suttie bagged a hat-trick for Tiegla Tiles in a very entertaining 5-5 draw with Barton Wanderers in **DIVISION TWO**. Rich Williams and Sam Coe were the other Tiegla scorers with Lee Gilbert (2) Ashley Booker, John Huggins and Tom Linbourne replying for Barton.

Duncan Atkinson and Charlie Heggan nabbed two each when AFC Ringwood shaded it 5-4

## HAYWARD SUNDAY

against Fairmile to open up a three point lead at the top of **DIVISION THREE**. Rob Stephenson was the other Ringwood marksman with Ben Harris, Paul Nolan, Barnaby Nicholls and Ryan Seerey replying for Fairmile.

Hollies spanked Poole Wanderers 5-0 with goals from Steve Glover (2), Dave Mountford, Tom Bending, and Ben Franklin while John Hennessey (2) and Stuart Anderson ensured a 3-0 victory for AFC Burns Lettings against Bournemouth Sports Mercury.

A&T Athletic are just two points adrift of **DIVISION FIVE** leaders Wimborne Magpies after Aaron Carrivick (2) and Dale Walters clinched a 3-1 win over Boscombe Celtic while Dave Wilcock scored both goals in JS West Moors' 2-0 success against Kavell Reserves.

Joe Kittle tucked away a hat-trick to keep Bournemouth

Electric Reserves three points clear at the top of **DIVISION SIX** following their 4-1 victory over Richmond Park Rangers. Michael Maher was the other Electric scorer with Stuart Fitzgerald replying for Rangers.

Nearest rivals Newtown Rovers just got the better of Vienna Windows Reserves 4-3 thanks to Martin Frigot (2), Josh Harper and Charlie Ruck and Ensbury Park Rangers were also 4-3 winners when Jamie Virabi's hat-trick and a goal from Joe Wilcox accounted for White Heather Hornets.

Third-placed Bournemouth Borough netted through Daniel Bailey but their unbeaten record vanished after Shamrock surprised them 2-1 with a couple of goals from Chris Stevenson.

Ace marksman Pete Valinski weighed in with a four-goal blast in Kinson Con's 8-0 trouncing of Intellihouse in **DIVISION SEVEN**. Matt Singleton (2), Trevor Fisher and Marley Green

were the other Kinson marksmen as they opened up a four-point lead at the top of the table.

Third placed Ferndown Forest boosted their promotion hopes with a 5-1 victory over James & James courtesy of Nathan Bartlett, Scott Ramsier, James Deem and a couple of goals from Chris Winfield.

Ryan Weeks, Ryan Glasspool and Dean Iles netted for AFC Dean Park but they had to settle for a point when Gary Chappell (2) and James Singleton earned Broadstone Con a 3-3 draw.

Ryan Elsworth's hat-trick proved decisive when West Mullen got the better of AFC Bransgore 5-2 with Jack Dunne and Jake Weston adding one each while Seabournes were 5-1 winners against Winkton Autos thanks to Joe Bond, Ross Okoye, Rob Johnson and a couple of goals from Jamie Smith.

JP Morgan move up to third place in **DIVISION EIGHT** after Lloyd Wallen (2), Craig Whittaker, Ben Duburuet-Gard and Dean Collins gave them the upper hand 5-3 against West Howe.

Adam Louka and James Morris gave Throop United the verdict 2-1 against ECP and Rushmere recorded a second successive victory when they upended fellow strugglers Sports Cuts 6-2 courtesy of Dean Brown's hat-trick and further goals from Ross Musk, Richard Price and Rob Kearley.

Meanwhile, tailenders Horse & Jockey doubled their points total when Nathan Whitcombe (2), Jamie Phillips and Zak Sutcliffe earned them a 4-4 draw with ARC Cleaning.

Jamie Williams and Mauro Sousa scored two apiece in West Mullen Reserves' 5-3 success against Ferndown Wayfarers in **DIVISION NINE** with the other goal coming from Aaron Moorman while Tom Clarke (2) and Ollie Barton were the Kings Arms Athletic marksmen when they tamed Bournemouth Foxes 3-1.



**GOAL GETTER:** Pete Valinski (blue) bagged four goals for Kinson against Intellihouse.

# Eastpoint edge cup battle

**EASTPOINT** fought off a determined effort by Burridge Youth to reach the second round of the Southampton Divisional Junior A Cup.

Two second half Burridge goals by Callum Foote and Liam Slade made it a battle after Eastpoint had led 2-0 at the interval.

But Eastpoint edged through 3-2, Will Stewart (2) and Dean Brunsdon getting their goals.

## CITY OF SOUTHAMPTON SUNDAY LEAGUE

It was much easier going for Crofton Saints who beat Netley RBL 6-1 with goals by Sam Floyd (2), Josh Borg (2), Rory Wood and Anthony Baker – an own goal by Chris Gill the only respite for Netley.

In the City of Southampton Sunday League Junior Division 2 a Craig Howells hat-trick helped

Cherbourg to a 6-1 win over Bishops Blaize. Matt Henriett (2) and Sam Jordan were the other scorers, with Paul Tanner netting the only reply.

There was a seven-goal thriller in Junior Division 4 as Durely netted through Lee Bungay, Mike Cooper, Sean Davies and Chris Reilly to edge AFC Marchwood 4-3.

Mitch Young (2) and Ben Saunders scored for Marchwood.

In Junior Division 5 Burridge AFC (Andy Graham) and Cherbourg Reserves (Mike Knott) fought out a 1-1 draw.

In Junior Division 6 Sky Blues scored two goals in each half through Mason Brown (2), Ashley Leech and Josh Hawkins to overcome Test Valley Spartans 4-0.

# Top dogs Sway get a 5-0 beating

## HAYWARD SATURDAY

**PREMIER DIVISION** leaders Sway took a heavy 5-0 tumble when Hamworthy Recreation toppled them with goals from Gary Vincent, Mark Dykes, Joe Wood, Tom Willis and Paul Manning.

Reigning champions Bournemouth Manor are back on top of the table after their 3-1 victory over title rivals Westover Bournemouth. Liam McGlynn struck for Westover but unbeaten Manor had the upper hand through Terry Foote and a couple of goals from Jesse Hodgson.

Paul Vincent netted for Allendale but that elusive first win of the season continued to evade them when Parley Sports upended them 3-1 thanks to Mike La Ronde (2) and Anthony Sykes.

Ben Mowlam struck twice for Harrington United but hundred per cent **DIVISION ONE** pacesetters Richmond Park Con just got the better of them 3-2 thanks to goals from Rob Scadding, Steve Haime and Marcus Robinson.

Kelly Barth notched a hat-trick for Seyward Windows but unbeaten **DIVISION THREE** front runners AFC Pennington opened up a six-point lead at the top of the table when they emerged 6-3 winners thanks to Danny Veal's hat-trick and further goals from Steven Forster, Paul Sims and Stuart Sims.

Tom Symons netted for nearest rivals BU Staff but they had to settle for a 1-1 draw when Christopher Mills earned bottom placed Redlynch & Woodfalls United Reserves their first point of the season.

Mudeford Men's Club Reserves take over in second place after Ryan O'Reilly and Marvin Fayer-Honour gave them the edge 2-1 against FC Atletico while Ferndown Sports Reserves subdued Queens Park Athletic Reserves 2-0 with goals from Matt Hall and Jack Pyne.

Ollie Galpin (2) and Rich Hickling scored for AFC Bransgore but Bisterne Blue Sox remain two points clear in **DIVISION FOUR** when they just got the better of them 4-3 courtesy of Craig Frost's hat-trick and a goal from James Leather.

Second-placed New Milton Eagles shaded it 2-1 against Magpies thanks to Chris Payne and Johnny Payne while Paul Senior (2) and Kyrone Fendley-Davis gave Fife Standards a 3-1 win against Burley.

Robert Cole and Dean Hindle bagged two apiece in Pig & Whistle's 5-1 triumph over Allendale Reserves. Ryan McArthur was the other Pig & Whistle marksman, with Peter Silverthorne replying for the visitors.

Liam Holland hit Witchampton for six when A & T Athletic stormed back into pole position in **DIVISION EIGHT** with a resounding 8-1 triumph. Jamie Tuvey and Crispin Rigler were the other A & T marksmen with Ed Jenner scoring Witchampton's consolation goal.

Matt Vining and Steve Miller scored two each when Milford Reserves spanked fellow strugglers Bransgore United Reserves 4-1 to move off the bottom of **DIVISION SIX**.

Nathan Vallory and Chris Vallory gave Redhill Rangers Reserves the verdict 2-1 against Boldre Royals while Fordingbridge Turks Reserves upended Ferndown Sports Reserves 5-3 thanks to John Cunningham, Danny Fryer and a Ben Jury hat-trick.

**WEEKEND NON-LEAGUE RESULTS APPEAR IN MONDAY'S ECHO**



# YouthSportSpecial



**CONGRATULATIONS!** Tom Barber is congratulated on his England Under-19 selection by Tom Boon, head coach of the England Development Programme.

## Barber makes cut for England

CHRISTMAS came early for Hampshire Academy talent Tom Barber, who has been selected for England Under-19 tour to South Africa in the new year.

The rookie 17-year old left-arm fast bowler, from Throp near Christchurch, has been chosen for a nine-match month-long tour, during which England will play two four-day Tests and five one-day internationals against their South African counterparts, **writes MIKE VIMPANY.**

The first Test will be at Sahara Park Newlands, Cape Town, from January 27 and the second at Boland Park, Paarl, from February 3.

The first ODI is on February 13 and the last eight days later.

The tour, which runs from January 23 to February 21 2013, is the initial part of the preparation for the Under-19 World Cup in Dubai in February 2014 and the England squad therefore predominantly consists of under-18 and under-17 players.

Barber said he was "thrilled to bits" to be chosen and described it "as Christmas coming early."

"Seriously, I'm

### ■ CRICKET

really delighted. I've put an enormous amount of effort into enhancing my game and feel I've come on leaps and bounds in the last two years," he said.

"To have the opportunity, as a 17-year old, to go to Cape Town and play at somewhere like Newlands is simply fantastic."

Barber, a second-year academy scholar at The Ageas Bowl who joined the Young Royals set up from Parley, has taken 30 wickets in his first two Southern Electric Premier League seasons and this summer helped Hampshire Under-17s into their junior age group county final.

Since the end of the past season, Barber has regularly attended the Loughborough National Performance Centre with the England Development Programme.

"The coaches have been working on all aspects of my game, particularly my fitness and building up my physical strength," explained Barber, who experiencing shin splint problems at the end of the summer.

## Poole Pick up a confidence boost

POOLE & East Dorset won't be short on confidence when they host either Swansea or Torbay in the English Schools' Under-15 Trophy next month.

They've gone into the Christmas break on a high after slamming their admittedly weakened Southampton counterparts 7-2 in the Pickford Cup.

Poole were 3-0 up inside 25 minutes through Curtis Young, Matt Neale and Frankie White before Southampton

trimmed the lead through Mitchell Speechley-Price.

When Ben Hull got a second goal back for Southampton immediately after half-time it was game on.

But Neale scored his second of the game – a mazy run in which he beat four defenders – to restore Poole's two-goal lead.

The impressive Sam Surridge scored twice, either side of a sixth goal by Keelan

O'Connell, to complete a fine Poole victory.

Poole are still waiting on news of their ESFA fifth-round rivals as Swansea and Torbay, who were due to play under the St Helen's floodlights in midweek, had their game postponed.

Likewise, Southampton await the outcome of the similarly delayed Brent Swindon fourth round tie, which will not now be played until the new year.



### KINGS' WINCHESTER UNDER-13s:

Back row (from left): Molly Golding, Alana Mattinson, Emilia Halfpenny, Lauren Harper, Alice Nichols. Front: Jasmine Castle-Mckenzie, Molly Williams, Phoebe Williams, Stella Gandee-Morgan, Mary Strevens, Sophie Gordon, Natalie Davey, Kate Wiseman.

# Loo-KINGS good!

**IT'S been goals all the way for the Kings' School, who have scored 52 times in winning six times to blaze their way into the English Schools' FA Girls Under-13 Cup quarter-finals.**

Their cup run began on a comparatively quiet note with a 1-0 win over Clere (Andover), but since that opening round victory they have been beating everyone in sight.

Twice they chalked up double figures, thrashing the John Madejski Academy 14-1 before thumping King Alfred's from the Vale of White Horse 10-1.

Two early goals by Mary Strevens gave Kings' the confidence to beat Broadstone 3-1, the Dorset side clawing a goal back before Stella Gandee-

## Alton right as rain

ALTON put the appalling mid-week weather to one side and beat South Downs 2-0 in the only Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges League match to survive the downpours.

South Downs turned the tables at second team level, the Purbrook side winning 5-3 in the cloying mud.

In the 3rd XI League, Barton Peveril held Richard Taunton 2-2, with St Vincent winning 4-3 at Brockenhurst.

Morgan made the game safe with a stunning strike.

This week, Kings' School took another decisive step in the ESFA competition – which attracted an initial entry from

The three quarter-final ties in the Peter Munro Cup at Brockenhurst (v Itchen), Farnborough (v Portsmouth) and Totton (v Havant) were all postponed.

Only Sparsholt, who won a dramatic penalty shoot-out victory at Barton Peveril the previous week, are into the semi-finals so far.

The Colleges League programme will resume on January 12, weather permitting!

### FIRST XI STANDINGS

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Totton	7	6	0	1	25	9	19
Itchen	6	6	0	0	33	2	18
Peter Symonds	7	5	2	0	30	18	15
Barton Peveril	7	4	2	1	35	19	13
Bournemouth	8	4	3	1	15	20	13
Brockenhurst	8	4	4	0	16	15	12
Queen Mary's	6	4	2	0	18	17	12
Poole	6	3	2	1	15	13	10
Basingstoke	5	3	1	1	15	17	10
Havant	7	2	2	3	12	14	9
Farnborough	5	2	3	0	13	10	6
Richard Taunton	6	2	4	0	17	21	6
Sparsholt	6	2	4	0	8	14	6
South Downs	8	2	6	0	10	17	6
Portsmouth	7	1	5	1	9	33	4
Alton	8	1	7	0	11	30	3
Soton City	5	0	4	1	8	21	1

almost 400 schools nationwide – by beating Winston Churchill College, from Woking, 7-1.

Eleven of the school squad play club football for

Winchester Flyers, based at the Garrison ground and their current success bodes well for the future of girls' football, both at Kings' and Winchester as a whole.

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## Adam Rant



This week's big talking points  
with **Adam Leitch**

# ON THE ROAD TO SAFETY IN 2013?

## CHRISTMAS is always a time for much cheer and much reflection.

It presents a great opportunity to look back on what has been and look forward to what's to come.

We have just experienced a very important 12 months in the life of Southampton Football Club. They are facing an even more important 2013.

Back-to-back promotions to reach the Premier League was a remarkable achievement. Staying there is pretty hard too.

Adam Rant maintains that it's harder to get out of the Championship than it is to stay in the Premier League, but accepts that the latter is hardly a walk in the park for a newly promoted side.

It certainly hasn't proved to be easy for Saints over the past few months.

A tough start to the season was exactly that, but in recent times they have managed to rally and give themselves hope.

They are still not getting any bonus points from teams you would expect them to lose to, but they are at least starting to win the games you feel they simply have to in order to stay up.

The second half of the season is going to be as, if not more, challenging for Nigel Adkins and his men.

They have had the easier half of their fixture list, the tougher part is yet to come.

The difficulty in winning away from home in the Premier League is there for all to see, not just for Saints but the vast majority of top flight clubs.

Saints have to play nearly all the teams around them away. The matches against them at home have pretty much been and gone.

The teams that will visit St Mary's will be those who are generally in the top half of the table.

So it's pretty obvious that things will not be easy.

Saints have beaten QPR away from home and will need a couple of other similar results against teams around them to make up for the fact the odd home loss when you are taking on the likes of Manchester City, Chelsea and co at St Mary's is inevitable.

However, there is good news for Saints fans.

We must not forget that at the start of the season some tough fixtures were combined with the fact that the side was a bit of a shambles defensively.

The club did not do the necessary business during the summer to have its house in order when the campaign kicked off and paid a price.

Since things have settled down there has been a marked sign of improvement and, with new signings surely going to be added in the January window, especially defensively, there is increased reason for optimism.

Anybody expecting Saints to stretch away into midtable obscurity much before the end of the season probably is wishful thinking.

But there are plenty of grounds of hope for survival.

Despite all the nonsensical pre-season talk about challenging for Europe, which probably hindered rather than helped the players, fourth from bottom would mark a very acceptable campaign indeed.

In Reading and QPR there are two teams who look doomed.

They will need exceptional runs to get out of it.

Assuming that doesn't happen it leaves a clutch of teams involved but only one place to avoid. The odds will be stacked in Saints' favour.

It's going to be a very interesting year ahead.

## PDC has raised the bar

THE current World Darts Championship marks 20 years of the PDC and how far it has come in that time.

Some people, including Adam Rant, may occasionally hark back with fond memories to the days when a love of professional darts was pretty rare and the sport didn't attract 15,000 strong crowds of football fans.

But nevertheless there is no doubt of the progress that the PDC has inspired in terms of the quality of the game.

The sport has changed beyond all recognition and there were a few first round games this year that would have easily eclipsed the early PDC finals in terms of quality.

From an invite-only event the PDC has established itself as the pinnacle of darts by allowing qualifying

and the strength in depth is quite remarkable.

Of course, Phil Taylor, above, has been a huge driving force behind the PDC and its major selling point for so long.

When he does eventually hang up the arrows he will leave a massive void, but it's one that it now seems possible to fill.

That is great news for darts.

Look at snooker without Ronnie

O'Sullivan. It's not the same.

Darts without Phil Taylor would be a less exciting place, but it could still thrive.

Perhaps darts has a shelf life, maybe the fad will pass, but there is no doubting that right now this a golden era for the game.



## Tunnel Twenty20 vision

IT SEEMS quite incredible that India appear more interested in Twenty20 than Test cricket these days.

The general reaction to their home series defeat to England was shock, as you would imagine.

But their attention quickly turned to the T20s and that seems to take a higher priority.

The Indians have embraced the short format of the game massively and the Indian Premier League competition has elevated it into the mainstream consciousness beyond even wildest imaginations over there - which can be pretty wild.

That they beat England in the first T20 international between the sides was a reason for major celebration. For most nations it would be only a very slight consolation for losing a Test series.

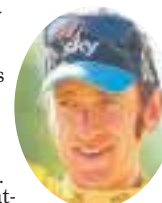
## Wiggo's biggest test

YOU get the sense that for all the talk of teamwork by Bradley Wiggins, below, he is rather reluctant to let go of his place as the nation's main man.

Talk that he may play second fiddle to Chris Froome in the Tour de France next year seems to have met a mixed reaction from the man quite rightly awarded the BBC Sports Personality of the Year.

He is happy to do whatever the team wants, but also seems to have pondered whether they could both contest it together.

It will perhaps be his biggest mental challenge yet if he is asked to set up a win for Froome rather than push for glory himself.



**KEY AWAY GAMES:** Saints boss Nigel Adkins.



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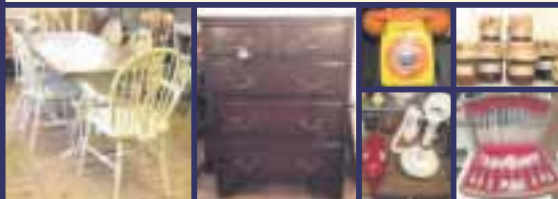
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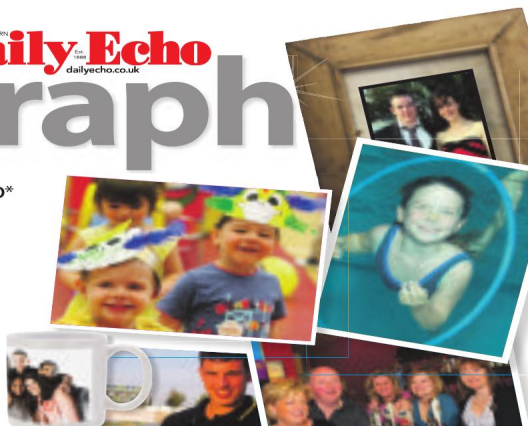
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## Barclays Premier League

Liverpool	L	Fulham	L
HT 1-0			
Man City	1	Reading	0
Barry 90			
HT 0-0			
Newcastle	1	Q.P.R.	0
S Ameda 81			
HT 0-0			
SAINTS	0	Sunderland	1
HT 0-1			
Spurs	0	Stoke	0
HT 0-0			
W.B.A.	2	Norwich	1
Gera 43			
Lukaku 82			
HT 1-1			
West Ham	1	Everton	2
Cole 14			
HT 1-0			
Wigan	0	Arsenal	1
HT 0-0			

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Man Utd	17	7	0	1	22	10	7	0	2	21	14	42	
Man City	18	7	2	1	22	9	4	4	0	12	6	39	
Arsenal	18	4	2	2	18	10	4	4	2	14	8	30	
Everton	18	4	4	0	14	9	3	5	2	16	13	30	
Spurs	18	5	3	2	14	10	4	0	4	16	15	30	
W.B.A.	18	7	1	2	16	7	2	4	10	15	30		
Chelsea	16	4	3	1	14	7	4	2	2	14	10	29	
Stoke	18	4	4	0	8	3	1	6	3	7	10	25	
Norwich	18	5	2	1	10	8	1	5	4	10	19	25	
Swansea	17	3	4	2	16	14	3	1	4	10	8	23	
West Ham	18	4	3	3	17	12	2	2	4	5	10	23	
Liverpool	17	3	3	3	10	10	2	4	2	13	13	22	
Fulham	17	4	1	3	15	11	1	4	4	13	18	20	
Newcastle	18	5	1	4	12	12	0	4	4	8	14	20	
Sunderlnd	18	2	3	3	9	10	2	4	4	10	14	19	
A. Villa	17	2	4	2	8	8	2	2	5	7	16	18	
SAINTS	17	3	3	4	14	13	1	0	6	8	20	15	
Wigan	18	2	3	5	13	18	2	0	6	5	15	15	
Q.P.R.	18	1	4	3	7	14	0	3	7	8	17	10	
Reading	18	1	4	3	14	19	0	2	8	7	18	9	

## npower Championship

Birmingham	2	Burnley	2
Davies 30			
Zigic 89			
HT 1-0			
Blackburn	P	Brighton	P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.			
Crystal P	L	Huddersfield	L
HT 1-1			
Ipswich	1	Bristol C	1
Smith 32			
HT 1-1			
Leeds Utd	2	Middlesbrough	2
Beochio 45,73			
HT 1-1			
Leicester	0	Cardiff	1
HT 0-1			
Millwall	1	Barnsley	2
Wood 80			
HT 0-1			
Peterboro	5	Bolton	4
Tomlin 2			
Gayle 6			
Thorne 47			
Little 69			
Zakuni 83			
HT 2-1			
Sheff Wed	2	Charlton	0
McCabe 20			
HT 1-0			
Watford	2	Nottm For	0
Vydra 15,40			
HT 2-0			

	HOME							AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Cardiff	23	10	0	1	22	7	5	2	5	22	21	47		
Hull	23	7	1	3	18	11	7	1	4	17	16	44		
Crystal P	22	7	3	1	29	14	5	3	3	14	14	42		
Middlesbrough	23	8	1	2	23	12	5	1	6	17	19	41		
Leicester	23	8	2	2	26	10	3	2	6	11	12	37		
Watford	23	6	2	4	17	11	5	2	4	24	20	37		
Millwall	24	6	2	4	18	14	4	5	3	19	19	37		
Leeds Utd	23	7	2	3	18	17	3	3	5	17	19	35		
Brighton	23	4	6	2	17	9	4	4	3	14	14	33		
Derby City	23	6	4	2	26	15	3	2	6	10	19	33		
Nottm For	23	5	3	1	3	6	17	3	6	17	17	33		
Blackpool	23	4	5	3	24	17	4	3	4	16	16	32		
Wolves	23	4	4	3	16	14	5	0	7	15	16	31		
Burnley	23	5	4	2	19	13	3	2	7	17	26	30		
Bolton	23	5	4	2	17	12	2	4	6	19	25	29		
Blackburn	22	5	1	5	11	14	2	7	2	18	17	29		
Charlton	23	3	4	4	15	17	4	4	4	13	13	29		
Huddersfield	22	4	3	4	16	17	4	5	2	12	18	29		
Birmingham	23	4	4	1	16	19	2	4	5	14	18	26		
Ipswich	23	3	4	5	16	18	3	2	6	7	26	24		
Sheff Wed	23	4	1	7	16	23	2	2	7	11	17	21		
Barnsley	23	2	4	5	8	14	3	2	7	15	22	21		
Bristol C	23	2	2	9	20	27	3	2	7	13	19	19		
Peterboro	23	3	0	9	19	27	3	1	7	11	17	19		

## npower League One

Brentford	P	Stevenage	P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.			
Coventry	1	Preston	1
Bailey 22			
HT 1-0			
Crawley	0	Sheff Utd	2
McMahon 29,72			
HT 0-1			
Crewe	P	CHERRIES	P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.			
Doncaster	P	M K Dons	P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.			
Hartlepool	P	POMPEY	P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.			
Notts City	P	Leyton O	P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.			
Scunthorpe	P	Carlisle	P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.			
Walsall	1	Colchester	0
Brandy 61			
HT 0-0			
Yeovil	4	Oldham	1
Williams 39 pen,44			
Hayter 77			
Madden 88			
HT 2-1			

		HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Sheff Utd	23	5	6	0	18	10	6	4	2	13	8	43	
Tranmere	23	5	4	2	20	10	6	4	2	18	13	41	
Brentford	22	8	2	1	21	11	3	6	2	12	11	41	
Doncaster	22	5	1	5	13	14	7	3	1	18	7	40	
Swindon	23	5	4	3	21	8	6	2	3	16	10	39	
M K Dons	22	8	2	2	17	5	3	4	4	14	12	39	
Stevenage	22	3	5	3	15	19	7	2	2	15	10	37	
Notts City	22	4	2	5	14	5	6	0	18	8	35		
CHERRIES	22	6	5	1	19	11	4	3	4	18	22	35	
Crawley	23	5	3	4	19	19	5	2	4	12	14	35	
Yeovil	23	5	2	5	16	15	5	1	5	20	19	33	
Crewe	22	6	2	3	13	10	3	4	4	15	18	33	
Coventry	23	3	5	4	19	16	5	2	4	19	14	31	
Leyton O	22	5	0	6	11	12	5	1	5	14	14	31	
Preston	23	3	5	3	16	11	4	4	4	17	17	30	
Oldham	23	3	3	5	11	12	4	2	6	12	18	26	
Walsall	23	4	4	5	15	21	3	4	4	11	16	26	
Shrewsbury	23	5	3	3	15	12	0	5	7	12	20	23	
Colchester	23	4	3	4	14	14	2	2	8	9	21	23	
Carlisle	22	2	2	7	14	28	4	3	4	14	15	23	
POMPEY	22	3	2	6	12	13	2	4	5	15	20	21	
Bury	23	2	5	12	18	2	4	6	13	20	20	20	
Scunthorpe	22	1	3	7	11	23	4	2	5	13	17	20	
Hartlepool	22	1	3	7	8	19	0	3	8	7	21	9	

## npower League Two

Acc Stanley	1	Plymouth	1
Beattie 52			
HT 0-1			
Bristol R	P	Rotherham	P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.			
Morecambe	P	Dagenham	P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.			
Northampton	2	Aldershot	0
Robinson 49			
Platt 90			
HT 0-0			
Oxford Utd	P	Fleetwood Town	P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.			
Port Vale	P	AFC Wimbledon	P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.			
Torquay	P	Exeter	P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.			
Wycombe	P	Bradford	P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.			
York	P	Gillingham	P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.			

	HOME						AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Gillingham	22	6	3	2	24	11	7	3	1	17	9	45	
Port Vale	22	5	4	2	26	13	6	3	2	19	11	40	
Cheltenham	23	7	2	2	17	11	4	4	4	15	21	39	
Southend	23	5	4	3	17	11	5	3	3	21	12	37	
Rotherham	22	7	0	4	23	15	4	4	3	12	16	37	
Bradford	22	7	2	2	18	6	3	4	4	15	16	31	
Exeter	22	3	3	5	13	15	7	1	3	20	17	34	
Fleetwood T	22	4	4	3	15	13	4	5	2	15	9	33	
Northampton	23	7	2	3	23	11	2	4	5	14	20	33	
Rochdale	23	4	4	4	17	13	5	2	4	21	24	33	
Burton Albion	23	6	3	2	23	12	3	3	6	9	20	33	
Torquay	22	6	4	1	21	16	2	4	5	8	10	32	
Chesterfield	23	4	4	3	19	15	4	4	4	10	12	32	
Dagenham	22	5	4	2	17	8	3	3	5	17	21	31	
York	22	4	4	4	14	17	4	5	2	16	13	30	
Morecambe	22	4	4	3	16	15	3	2	6	13	16	27	
Acc Stanley	23	3	3	6	12	18	4	3	4	15	17	27	
Wycombe	22	3	4	4	13	12	4	1	6	14	20	26	
Oxford Utd	22	5	3	3	19	14	2	2	7	12	23	26	
Plymouth	23	3	3	5	15	11	2	5	12	15	23	23	
Aldershot	23	2	2	7	7	16	3	4	5	13	20	21	
Barnet	23	3	5	4	17	19	1	2	8	5	19	19	
AFC Wimbledon	22	2	2	7	10	17	3	2	6	14	24	19	
Bristol Rovers	22	3	3	5	16	20	1	3	7	8	24	18	

## Clydesdale Bank Premier

<b>Aberdeen</b> .....	<b>2</b>	<b>St Johnstn</b> .....	<b>0</b>
McGinn 63,81			
HT 0-0			Att 7,051
<b>Celtic</b> .....	<b>4</b>	<b>Ross Cnty</b> .....	<b>0</b>
Brown 46, Hooper 53,64			
Forrest 70			
HT 0-0			